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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

OVERDUE LAND COMPENSATION

'Time to pay up'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Majority of the House of Representatives supports the Torres administration's plan to settle some of the judgments against the CNMI government—either court cases or land compensation—to stop the overdue amount from accruing added interest. The House passed House Bill 19-213 yesterday before going on recess; they plan to resume session today at 10am.

See TIME on Page 4

CHCC issues dengue alert

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. advisory dated Dec. 22, 2016, is urging CNMI residents to be cautious of mosquito bites after cases of dengue, a mosquito-borne disease, was reported in Palau.

A mosquito of the *Aedes* specie gets infected with dengue once it bites a person who has the dengue virus in their blood. The *Aedes* mosquito is native to both the CNMI and Palau.

People with the dengue virus can either be mild or asymptomatic, which means that symptoms aren't as pronounced. Symptoms of dengue include at least two of these

See CHCC on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

➤ CHCC issue dengue advisory for visitors to Palau. PAGE 3

Yamamoto's loan claim 'truly incredible'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The owners and operators of Luta Mermaid LLC, which owns the seized cargo ship M/V *Luta*, have opposed Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto's bid to have the ship sold.

Speaking through their lawyer, William M. Fitzgerald, Luta Mermaid LLC, M/V *Luta*, company president Abelina T. Mendiola, Deron T. Mendiola, and Fidel S. Mendiola III, said the U.S. District Court for the NMI should deny Yamamoto's bid to have the vessel sold because Yamamoto may not have a maritime lien on the vessel. That means the court does not have jurisdiction to order the sale of the ship, they said.

See YAMAMOTO on Page 4

'JOY TO THE WORLD'
Santa Claus mingles with children at the Garapan Elementary School, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Tanapag Middle School, and Koblerville Elementary School during a visit last week. Santa was accompanied in his visit by first lady Diann Torres.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AP NEW YEAR'S POLL:

Americans hopeful for a better 2017

By EMILY SWANSON and VERENA DOBNIK,
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Emotionally wrenching politics, foreign conflicts and shootings at home took a toll on Americans in 2016, but they are entering 2017 on an optimistic note, according to a new poll that found that a majority believes things are going to get better for the country next year.

A look at the key findings of the Associated Press-Times Square Alliance poll:

See AMERICANS on Page 4

AP
In this Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2016 photo, a computer screen shows the results from an electronic voting machine as Brian Varner, a principal researcher at Symantec, demonstrates how to hack an electronic voting machine at a Symantec office in New York.

NOTICE

There will be no issue of *Saipan Tribune* on Jan. 2, 2017.

Happy New Year!

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If President Barack Obama ran for a third term against Donald Trump, who would win?
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Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe laid wreaths at Hawaii cemeteries and memorials.
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The Kremlin plays down the possibility that a terror attack downed a Russian plane.
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Local

Permitting impasse hobbles BIG project on Tinian

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bridge Investment Group's plan to build a $150-million resort hotel that offers ferry services between Tinian and Saipan, along with casino and hotel operations, is currently facing problems with multiple government agencies.

For one, Coastal Resources Management is concerned that port-related activity, which is under its purview, does not include casino operations, which would be one of the offerings of the *Titanic*-themed hotel resort.

Because of this, the Department of Public Lands said the lease is in violation of DPL's grant of public domain to the Commonwealth Ports Authority because the latter has leased out the property to an entity that engages in an activity that is considered not port-related.

Despite these permitting issues, Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas applauds BIG for its contributions to Tinian and the community, "especially in line with the fact that the economy of Tinian has really taken a turn for the worst."

San Nicolas wishes that the multi-million project pushes through at the soonest possible time to help Tinian's economy.

"On behalf of the municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan, I am here to state our 100 percent support on the lease to BIG, 100 percent support of CPA's interpretation of what port-related activity is…If it's only a matter of definition, then maybe it is something we could both come out together with and figure out how to overcome," said San Nicolas in a letter read during a CPA board meeting last week.

"BIG has to comply with every environmental rule and regulation; that is totally understood, but with respect to whether or not they would be able to seek permitting from CRM depending on what port-related means, I am hoping that we could work together to resolve this issue," he added.

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) seconded San Nicolas' support of BIG, speaking at the same CPA board meeting.

"I stand here before you to express support for the issue at hand. I am aware that there are some issues that are being raised—listening to the previous testimonials a few minutes ago, I could not help but recognize the significance of this project to move forward—that hinges a lot on CPA as well as other agencies that are potentially involved," said Hofschneider.

CPA board member and Tinian representative Kimerlyn King-Hinds said she also supports the BIG project.

"I can state personally that I do not support the transfer of CPA property to DPL, but what I do support is the development—because it directly affects the people of Tinian and it promotes job growth," said King-Hinds.

King-Hinds then questioned if the only way to proceed with the project was to revert the land to DPL.

"What if the only way to move forward is to transfer so that they could comply with permitting?"

San Nicolas was against the idea of reverting the land to DPL because of the berthing of ships on the harbor, but was open to negotiation.

"Hopefully, it doesn't get there, but I would think that together, we could come up with a solution regarding that. But if it came to that, I would be more than willing to sit down and listen and talk about it," he said.

BIG is having problems obtaining their major siting application permits from CRM, which is related to problems with a 40-year lease with CPA and BIG, ultimately hindering the project's ability to move forward.

BIG CEO Philip Mendiola-Long also sent a letter to the CPA board to discuss the delay in the project.

"BIG would like to know if CPA has made it's determination and its stand on whether CPA would revert the port area on San Jose harbor on Tinian back to DPL," read Mendiola-Long's letter.

Mendiola-Long asked for the chance to do a thorough presentation to the CPA board to inform the board members of the specifics of the project.

BIG chief logistics officer Trenton Conner read the letter to the CPA board and shared his own testimony.

The project was first due to break ground January 2016, which has yet to happen.

"BIG has not yet broken the ground on the major project. We just need a definitive answer as far as the CPA board is concerned regarding the CPA-DPL matter at hand," explained Conner.

Conner shared that the project is estimated to bring 785 job opportunities once completed, which he said is an "opportunity for the economy of Tinian and the CNMI as a whole to avail of."

King-Hinds shared with BIG representatives the venue of the next CPA board meeting, which would be on Tinian.

"We would be sure to accommodate your presentation. You would get due notice," she said.

"The issue with regards to the investment at the port at this point is not a CPA issue. It is a CRM permitting issue. The debate with regards to the transfer of the land is in consideration of the support of your investment, in terms of how to get over the CRM permitting requirement, so the issue is really not with regards to the CPA's position as to its support of BIG. Clearly, CPA has given BIG a 40-year lease. The hurdles that BIG faces today are the CRM permitting requirements," said King-Hinds.

Conner responded that BIG's concerns is whether CPA would be entertaining the lease if the land gets reverted back to DPL, and what would happen after that.

"We need a definitive answer so that we know what is the next step and what approach [BIG] needs to take and relay it to [the BIG] board so that they can make a definitive decision," said Conner.

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WITH PS GAME

Tinian joins candlelight vigil

By MICHAEL T. SANTOS
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REPORTER

Tinian officially joined this month's worldwide candlelight vigil that commemorates deceased siblings and children.

Called "Dancing in the Sky," the event was held on Tinian on Dec. 11, 2016, starting at 6pm. Approximately 40 participants gathered at the Tinian Gymnasium to light candles and walk to the Antonio M. Borja Amphitheater where the main event was held. The Tinian High School Class of 2018 helped with playing the guitar and singing during the walk.

Organizer Tania Mendiola said, "I lost my 16-year-old son in July this year. To grieve for a child is the hardest thing to go through. A few parents who have also lost a child would talk to me and we would share how we felt. They mentioned having a support group. That sparked my interest, so I did some research online and found Compassionate Friends. Everything else just took off from there."

A non-profit organization, Team Koka, also found a way to assist by purchasing a Christmas tree and ornaments from Compassionate Friends of Saipan. Upon purchase, guests were allowed to pick a photo of a loved one, which is then printed on the ornament, as well as a special message. All decorations were placed on the Christmas tree during the candlelight vigilon Dec. 11.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A photo of a deceased loved one decorates the side of an ornament during the "Dancing in the Sky" event held on Tinian on Dec. 11.

Families were able to purchase ornaments for $5 each to raise awareness and funds for muscular dystrophy.

"I love the idea of the candlelight vigil every year in December on Saipan, Guam, the mainland, and many other countries around the world. I thought that this would be a good way to help parents, like myself, to cope with their loss, especially during the holidays," Mendiola said.

The event honored 56 loved ones, and not just siblings or children.

CHCC issue dengue advisory for visitors to Palau

What is dengue?

Dengue is a mosquito-borne disease similar to zika. Dengue transmission has been reported in Palau. Dengue is spread through the bite of an infected *Aedes* species mosquito. The mosquito becomes infected with dengue virus when it bites a person who has dengue virus in their blood. The person can either have symptoms of dengue, or they may have no symptoms. After about one week, the mosquito can then transmit the virus while biting a healthy person. These mosquitos are found in Palau and in the CNMI. Therefore, if you were bitten by an infected mosquito in Palau you could unknowingly bring dengue back to the CNMI. Dengue cannot be spread directly from person to person.

What are the symptoms of Dengue?

Symptoms of dengue fever may appear between three and 14 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Symptoms include a high fever *and* at least two of the following: severe headache, severe eye pain (behind eyes), joint pain, muscle and/or bone pain, rash, or mild bleeding from your nose or gums or easy bruising.

Dengue can be mild or severe and many people will be asymptomatic, that is, they do not know they have been infected (but they can still pass the infection on to others if bitten by an *Aedes* mosquito).

How can I protect myself against dengue?

There is no vaccine available against dengue, and no specific treatment for dengue infection. This makes prevention the most important step. Prevention means avoiding mosquito bites.

The *Aedes* dengue mosquitoes like to bite inside as well as around homes, *during the day and night*. To protect yourself, use repellent on your skin while indoors or outside. When possible, wear long sleeves and pants for additional protection. Also, make sure window and door screens are secure and without holes. Use air-conditioning. Sleep under a mosquito bed net and eliminate mosquitoes you find indoors.

What do I do if I feel unwell?

If you feel ill when you return from Palau or if you develop any of the symptoms of dengue please see your primary care health provider immediately. If you have any questions, contact the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and ask for the director Public Health Emergency Preparedness Warren Villagomez via (670) 234-8950; or territorial epidemiologist Dr. Paul White via (670) 234-8950. ***(CHCC)***

Artists showcase talents in CD release party

Music lovers are invited to attend a CD release party this Friday at the Hard Rock Café. It will start at 6pm sharp. Tickets are $20 each at the door and include a free copy of *Music Of The Marianas: Made In Saipan Vol. 1."*

The new album features artists such as Out of the Ordinary, Toots Lizama, Travis Kaliga, Josh Castro, Uprooted, and Fakiezero.

Event producer John Ulrich said, "We want to support local musicians here on island and what better way than to sell the music they make?"

Ulrich is also CEO and master creator of 11th World Productions, the organization that funded all the CDs to be distributed at the event. Work on the album began on Nov. 1. About 100 CDs were first made; now they have another 300 for circulation. ***(Michael T. Santos)***

On December 22, 2016, Mr. Magofna walked into Kevin's Market to grab some lunch and bought a Star Spangled 7's Instant Scratchies ticket and won herself $1,000.00 instantly just in time for Christmas!

AMERICANS

From Page 1

SO HOW WAS 2016?

Americans weren't thrilled with the year. Only 18 percent said things for the country got better, 33 percent said things got worse, and 47 percent said it was unchanged from 2015.

On a personal level, they were optimistic about 2017.

Fifty-five percent said they believe things will be better for them in the coming year than in the year that just concluded. That's a 12-point improvement from last year's poll.

Americans interviewed about the poll's results expressed some of that optimism.

"Next year will be better than this year, because people will have more jobs and they'll have more money to spend," said Bourema Tamboura, a Harlem resident behind the wheel of a New York car service.

"I'm hoping 2017 will be better," added Elizabeth Flynn, 62, an elementary schoolteacher from Peabody, Massachusetts. "You've got to be optimistic, and I'm going to try."

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say 2016 was worse for the country than 2015. And Republicans are especially likely to feel that 2017 will be even better for them personally.

University of Miami professor Benjamin Alsup said he needed only three words to explain why 2016 felt worse for him: "Trump, Trump, Trump!"

Robert Greenstone, a New York commercial real estate broker, said the political discourse leading up to Republican Donald Trump's election as president played havoc with people's emotions.

"The amount of disinformation made people suspect of everything and everyone, even their neighbors," he said.

U.S. ELECTION LEADS TOP NEWS EVENTS

The U.S. elections top Americans' list of 10 top news events in 2016. Three-quarters called the presidential election and Trump's victory very or extremely important.

Sixty-three percent ranked mass shootings and bombings in Orlando, Florida, and in Belgium, Turkey, Pakistan and France as personally important news stories of the year.

Fifty-one percent said they found news stories about the deaths of people at the hands of police officers, or news about ambush attacks on police in three states, to be among the year's most important news events.

Fourth on the list are 43 percent who described the spread of the Zika virus as important.

The three events described by the largest percentages of Americans as not too important included the death of Muhammad Ali (50 percent), approval of recreational marijuana use in four states (43 percent), and the death of Fidel Castro (40 percent).

CHCC

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symptoms—fever, severe headache, severe eye pain, joint pain, muscle and/or bone pain, rashes, mild bleeding of the nose or gums or easy bruising.

No vaccine is available for dengue while no specific treatment has been discovered to combat the disease, making bite prevention the most important weapon against it. If untreated, dengue can be fatal.

Aedes mosquitoes bite in and out of homes, around the clock. CHCC recommends the use of repellent on exposed skin as well as wearing long sleeved shirts and pants for additional protection. Window and door screens provide even more protection for indoors.

CHCC recommends seeing a primary healthcare provider immediately if you are returning from Palau and are experiencing such symptoms. For more questions and information, contact CHCC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness director Warren Villagomez through 234-8950 or territorial epidemiologist Dr. Paul White through 234-8950.

TIME

From Page 1

HB 19-213 would amend Chapter 3 Section 302 (e) of Public Law 19-75.

Section 302 (e) states that $9 million will be set aside from the supplemental budget to pay for land compensation and/or other judgments.

Payment shall be paid in the following priority: (A) judgments and settlements between $1 and $50,000 shall be paid in full; and (B) judgments and settlements over $50,000 shall be paid on a proportional basis.

On a vote of 15-1, the House passed HB 19-21.

Two—Reps. Ramon Tebuteb A. Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) and Edwin P. Aldan (Ind-Tinian)—did not cast their votes.

Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) voted no.

Reps. Francis S. Taimanao and Ralph N. Yumul were excused due to personal reasons.

The $9 million would settle six cases, including $3 million intended for the heirs of Maria Mangabao (civil case number 96-0266, *CNMI vs. Lot Number 353 New-G*). The $3 million is 16 percent of the $18,498,088.01 total judgment.

Manglona vs. CNMI (civil case no. 97-0486) would be getting $900,000; *the Marianas Public Lands Authority vs. the heirs of Rogolifoi* (civil case no. 05-0197) will get $700,000 or 26 percent of $2,690.020.07; $500,000 each for *Lizama vs. Department of Public Lands* (civil case no. 08-149) and *Tano Group vs. Department of Public Works* (civil case no. 05-0100); and $00,000 or 70.3 percent of the $568,966.82 in *Estate of Muna vs. CNMI* (civil case no. 96-0796.

The Mangabao and Rogolifoi heirs, estate of Muna, and *Lizama vs. DPL* are settlement cases that are related to land compensation judgment.

Comments

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who last week signed P.L. 19-75, said he had already talked to four of the six parties involved in the cases who signified their intention to cooperate. "Four of the six are very much willing to sign an agreement on the settlement."

"It gives us time to negotiate and they are willing to sit down, meet with the families to work out on settling the judgment. We will sign the agreement once we get the appropriation, then we'll turn it to the court to recognize it, then make the payment."

These are the six biggest cases; some of them have not been settled since 1996. "Let's make our payment now, settle it to stop the interest from accruing."

Edward Arriola, the attorney of Maria Mangabao's heirs, said in a public comment that HB 19-213 is highly discriminatory against Carolinians. He mentioned that two of the four land compensation settlement cases involve Carolinians, the reason for the disproportionate payment.

He added that the Mangabao case that he's representing will only be getting 16.2 percent of the total amount of the judgment, while the Rogolifoi heirs will get 26 percent while *Tano Group vs. DPW*, which is not even a land compensation judgment, is appropriated more than half of what the government owes them.

"I believe this bill is the result of my motion filed in court after PL 19-75 was signed. The motion is to compel the Finance secretary to pay the heirs $6.8 million pursuant to PL 19-75, the proportionate amount of all judgments due and owing now by the government. The payment for specific persons is highly discriminatory; it discriminates specifically to Carolinians."

The government owes $24,542,165.46 in total land compensation judgment plus interest; out of that the stipulated judgment is $18,715,218.29. The amount would further increase after Jan. 4.2017, where $2,860 would be accrued thereafter.

Arriola said nothing or no one could stop the interest from piling up. "There's no agreement and before any agreement can be done, it has to be approved by the court. Presently there's no approval from the court, there is no petition for any judgment to be settled."

He, however, applauded Torres for his move to settle the judgment. "He is the only governor who sought payment of the judgments due since 1993. The original judgment on my client is $4 million; today it is almost $19 million because of the delay."

House members

House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) said most of the parties involved have come to an agreement. "Some are still ongoing discussion but nevertheless we got them to the negotiating table. These are not full but partial payments. The governor came here to explain everything before the bill passed the House.

"Most are coming to an agreement, some are still ongoing discussion but nevertheless all will go through the court. The money appropriated here is not to satisfy the full amount, but to get the parties to agree to an amount and negotiate with them so next year and after that would have some kind of settlement agreements."

Vice speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) also clarified that the bill's intention is not to settle land compensation judgments. "The intent is to pay for those cases whose interest continue to accrue. There are other cases that accrue interest of $5,000 or $7,000 a day, not only $2,800. It is just to stop the bleeding."

"It does not say it would be given proportionately. It has to be an offer acceptable to all parties, for them to agree and take to court. These are families who waited for decades but are now going to get paid."

"After all these years, we don't have the ability to pay since the 15th Legislature. There have been no sources of funds. This is an attempt to stop the bleeding, this is the first step."

Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said the CNMI government should take advantage of the current situation where it now has the opportunity to pay these judgments. "We've heard from the governor, that he's confident with the ongoing negotiations."

"Let us not delay this further and don't keep them waiting. The money has already been collected and the governor would identify additional revenue from the business gross revenue tax."

Rep. Roman C. Benavente (Ind-Saipan) said the families now have the chance to get the money that they waited for years. "Now they can get the money that is due them after years of waiting. I personally know some people involved in these cases."

"The governor is confident that there would be more funds coming in that would support these people to get the money that they deserve. Let us not wait too long. The longer we wait, they may not get the opportunity to receive it."

Rep. Vinnie Sablan (Ind-Saipan) echoed the sentiment. "No more accrued interest if the judgments get paid. We should take care of the judgment so no more interest. The bill would take of this."

YAMAMOTO

From Page 1

Fitzgerald said that if Abelina Mendiola's affidavit is contested, then the court must hold an evidentiary hearing because there will be a question of fact and the court cannot resolve this as a matter of law if there are disputed issues of fact.

Fitzgerald said the most significant issue for the court to decide is whether Yamamoto is a joint venture owner of M/V *Luta*, or is he a stranger to the vessel who simply provided money for the purchase of the ship and its necessities.

"By stranger to the vessel is meant an independent vendor who supplied something that the vessel needed," the lawyer said.

Fitzgerald said the court, at this stage, only has Yamamoto's complaint and Abelina Mendiola's affidavit, which cannot be contradicted since it is supported by Yamamoto's own words by which he describes himself as a joint owner of M/V *Luta* in a 50/50 relationship with the Mendiolas.

Fitzgerald said substantial case law establishes that a joint venture in the ownership of a vessel cannot obtain a maritime lien.

The district court, he said, has the power to invalidate the arrest of the vessel even in the face of a claim for delay, expense, and decay if Yamamoto secured the lien improperly.

Fitzgerald pointed out that the most unbelievable part about Yamamoto's claim is the absence of any documentary evidence.

"It is truly incredible that Yamamoto, apparently a wealthy licensed tax accountant in Japan, 'loaned' a large amount of money to eight defendants, consisting of individuals and a limited liability company without a single document," the lawyer pointed out.

Fitzgerald said Yamamoto takes the position that he operated as a banker who simply loaned money in exchange for a promise to be repaid.

"But what bank loans money without specifying an interest rate or time for repayment?" Fitzgerald asked.

It is seldom, he said, that one sees a complaint for breach of contract to loan money without a copy of the contract attached as an exhibit, but that there is none in this case.

One glaring question, Fitzgerald said, is why Yamamoto claims that Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog promised to ensure that Yamamoto's "investment was returned with profit" instead of Yamamoto's loan would be repaid with interest if, in fact, the financing of the vessel was a loan.

Fitzgerald said the answer is found in Abelina Mendiola's affidavit, supported by documents showing that Yamamoto's funding for the vessel was not a loan, but a joint venture investment in the shipping business to be conducted with the Mendiola family of Rota.

Yamamoto is suing Hocog and the owners/operators of Luta Mermaid LLC for allegedly refusing to pay back the $3.4 million that he put up for the vessel.

After Yamamoto filed the lawsuit last Oct. 25, the U.S. Marshal Service seized the ship.

Yamamoto, through counsel George Lloyd Hasselback, recently asked the court to order the sale of M/V *Luta* to avoid its deterioration and excessive cost of keeping the vessel while his lawsuit is pending in court.

Abelina Mendiola, 53, said it was Yamamoto's idea to go into shipping business for Rota, which was developed out of his interest in the acquisition of Sunset Villa on Rota, owned by her sons.

Abelina Mendiola said under Yamamoto's idea he finances the businesses and the Mendiolas will provide time and services in management, operation, and logistics. She said they agreed that this was a 50-50 joint venture, ultimately using Luta Mermaid LLC as their vehicle.

Man pleads guilty to lying to a federal officer

A man indicted in federal court of lying to a federal officer has pleaded guilty.

Guo Hua Lu pleaded guilty Friday to the indictment charging him with false statement to a federal officer as part of a plea deal. The offense carries a maximum penalty of not more than five years of imprisonment and a fine not to exceed $250,000.

Attorney Steven Pixley is private counsel for Lu.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy, who presided over the hearing, set the sentencing hearing for April 7, 2017 at 9am.

Kennedy presided over the hearing as NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona was off-island at that time.

Pixley informed the court that the sentence may result in the range of six months and that he would be working with U.S. Probation Office to expedite the sentencing hearing date.

Assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto is counsel for the U.S. government.

After the hearing, Lu was remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

On Oct. 6, 2016, Lu lied to special agent Vincent Carpenter of the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service in connection with the preparation of a document needed to process a U.S. passport.

Specifically, Lu told Carpenter that he never supplied, made, or coordinated a single Chinese certificate that was submitted to the U.S. Passport in Saipan "for processing of Ms. Shi's son."

Lu also told Carpenter that "I never provided her single certificate, also I have no knowledge that single certificate is true or not. I did help her to get that."

Lu's statements and representations were not true as in fact, he had arranged for the preparation of the single notarial certificate and its subsequent delivery to Saipan from China, in exchange for $750.

Lu requested that Miss Shi, on whose behalf Lu prepared a U.S. Passport application in the name of her (Shi) infant son, send him (Lu) her official Chinese identification card number, U.S. visa, and a passport-sized photo, so that he could arrange for the preparation of the notarial certificate.

The notarial certificate was sent via DHL from Jin Fa Zhou in Fuqing, China, to Lu on Saipan. Lu delivered the DHL envelope containing the notarial certificate and a completed U.S. Passport application for Shi's son to Shi at the U.S. Passport Office on Saipan.

Shi signed the passport application and submitted it to the Passport Office.

Subsequent review of the notarial certificate by fraud prevention manager Elizabeth Holcombe of the U.S. Consulate in Shanghai, China, established that the notarial certificate was fraudulent.

Holcombe contacted the notary in China from which the notarial certificate was purportedly issued. The numbers on the notarial certificate and supporting documents did not exist in the notary's records. The name of the notary who purportedly issued the notarial certificate is not a notary of that office. Shi's name did not appear in the notary's records as ever having applied for any notary service.

Lu obtained or arranged another notarial certificate of single status for a prior client, Rui Lui, in 2015 that was also fraudulent.

Prior to making the statements and representations, Carpenter had advised Lu that it was a federal crime to lie to a federal agent. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Live the Fiesta Way!
2017
Countdown
New Year's Eve Special
World Café Restaurant
Seafood & Roast Beef Dinner Buffet
with Ham Carving Station and Special Menus
December 31, 2016, Saturday
6:00pm ~ 9:30pm
$60 per adult & $30 per child 4 ~ 11 years old
Free flow of Red & White Wine, American Beer & Soda
New Year's Countdown
with Joyful Dinner Show
"Island Style"South Beach
December 31, 2016, Saturday
6:00pm ~ 1:00am
$90 per adult & $45 per child 4 ~ 11 years old
Free flow of Red & White Wine, American Beer and Juice
Cocktail Party Only at 10pm @ $50 per adult / per child
New Year's Day Brunch
World Cafe Restaurant
January 1, 2017, Sunday
11:00am ~ 2:00pm
$38 per adult & $19 per child 4 ~ 11 years old
Free flow of Sparkling Wine, Beer, Red &
White Wine and Juice
Special price for CNMI Residents
For Reservations and Inquiries
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Parks & Rec: We need more manpower

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Division of Parks and Recreation needs more hands to maintain, improve, and beautify parks and other recreational sites in the CNMI.

According to division director Eli Cabrera, along with upgraded equipment, manpower seems to be a real issue for the division.

Although jurisdiction over the upcoming Puerto Rico Park has yet to be confirmed, Cabrera is already expecting that he would be handling the new park.

"We have about a little over 30 people, with 16 in the field at most. We need at least 15 more people. I am anticipating to [also handle] the Puerto Rico Park once it opens," said Cabrera, a former House of Representatives speaker.

Besides taking care of the numerous parks in the CNMI, there are also recreational sites to handle, which is proving to be a difficult task without the increased manpower, Cabrera said.

"Right now, we are also taking care of Kalabera Cave without any increase in employees. It is big—about 3 hectares. We are also taking care of the Forbidden Island with the same amount of manpower. The responsibility has increased and we are just trying to do as much as we can," said Cabrera.

Cabrera has already requested the House Ways and Means Committee for additional manpower. He has gotten five additional slots.

"Among the five positions given to me, I would be hiring two park rangers. The park rangers were supposed to be given to Parks and Recreation years ago, when they passed PL 11-106, also known as the Parks and Recreation Act of 1998," he said.

"The other three are for raw maintenance because we have additional sites. We have more additional duties that need maintenance," added Cabrera.

Cabrera said the Marianas Visitors Authority assists Parks and Recreation, which has been working with one another for many years.

"I get assistance from MVA. It usually depends on how much I ask, but whenever I ask, they are never hesitant to support me. When I request, I justify my request and they approve it—they are very supportive," said Cabrera.

"MVA is very supportive because of tourism," he added.

GHIS students win big at December PGFC

Students of Golden Harvest International School and Daycare won big again at the Primary Grade Forensics Competition last Dec. 3, 2016, at San Vicente Elementary School.

K-2 DIVISION

DI, 1st Place: Steven Song

HI, 3rd Place: Princess Nicole Rigua

RF A, 3rd Place: Zian Michael Obnimaga

RF, MC, 1st: Austyn Trasmano

RF, CH – 1st Place: Gregorio Romolor

2nd Place: Vhonn Vincent Flandez

3rd Place: Terell Earl Hix

DUO, 1st Place: Dane Tibayan and Arthur Angel Deliva

2nd Place: Travis Jr. Hix and Sean Michael Bamba

3rd Place: Stephanie Joyce Sevilla and Andre Amour Zapata

5th Place: Danille Kriss Joson and Jeinevin Mendiola

C-SPK, 1st Place: Arthur Angel Deliva, Gregorio Romolor, Jan Alverne Santos, Dane Tibayan

2nd Place: Terell Earl Hix, Princess Nicole Rigua, Stephanie Joyce Sevilla, Andre Amour Zapata, Austyn Trasmano

5th Place: Sean Michael Bamba, Lucas Michael Garon, Travis Jr. Hix, Zian Michael Obnimaga, Steven Song

3-5 DIVISION

RF-CH, 1st Place: Quinn Thomas Palacios

2nd Place: Tamia Lei Hix

DUO – 1st Place, Jan Andrei Dumagan, Ezekiel Joson

3rd Place: Tamia Lei Hix, Ernest Mikhail Licop

C-SPK – 2nd Place, Kyrell Caraig, Jan Andrei Dumagan, Ezekiel Joson, Quinn Thomas Palacios

PGFC coordinator Imelda C. Bautista

Coaches Leonor V. Marfil, Jeanne M. Salcedo, Belinda J. Acosta

Volunteer judges Nestor B. Tam, Mary Grace U. Mendoza, Jesmerlyn Beth Taitano. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM, DR-4235-MP
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 664-2375
Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION FOR BID

Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters - Rota Municipality Government Buildings
ITB17-GOV-048

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the CNMI Hazard Mitigation Grant Program are soliciting sealed bids for the supply and installation of typhoon shutters at various government buildings on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available December 15, 2016 at the CIP Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A $50.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference followed by site visitation on Rota for this project on January 6, 2017, 10:00 a.m. ChST at the Rota Mayor's Office conference room. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Leona DLG. Sablan in writing by e-mail: leona.cip@gmail.com, on or before January 11, 2017 to the CIP Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked ITB17-GOV-048 Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters- Rota Municipality Government Buildings. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST, January 20, 2017. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST, January 20, 2017 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 20, 2017 and the bid documents must be received no later than January 31, 2017. Failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at 10:00 a.m. ChST, February 1, 2017. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at 10:00 a.m. ChST January 20, 2017.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:
a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 120 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Herman S. Sablan, Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM, DR-4235-MP
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ADDENDUM NO. 1

12/28/16
Invitation for Bid
ITB17-GOV-048 Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters – Rota Municipality Government Buildings

The previous invitation for bid advertisements, ITB17-GOV-048 Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters- Rota Municipality Government Buildings has been amended to change the pre-bid conference date. The amendment shall read:

There will be a pre-bid conference followed by site visitation on Rota for this project on January 5, 2017, 10:00 a.m. at the Rota Mayor's Office conference room.

All other elements of ITB17-GOV-048 remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Office at (670) 664-2375 or fax (670) 664-2408 during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Friday, except holidays).

/s/ Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANA FISHING, INC.,
Plaintiff,
-v-
AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
Defendant
CIVIL ACTION NO. 15-0068

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on March 9, 2016, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: the motor vessel Blue Marlin 1, together with the tackle and equipment listed on the Inventory attached hereto.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 6, 2017, at the hour of 1:30p.m. at the Rota Seaport, Rota , Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of property. The property to be sold is currently located at the Rota Seaport. It may be viewed and inspected at any time prior to the sale, by prior arrangement with Francisco M. Atalig, telephone no. 670-532-0350 or 671-797-0349. Failure to inspect the property to be sold or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 7th day of December, 2016:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Man with 63-month prison term appeals sentence

A Chinese national, who was recently slapped with a 63-month prison term in federal court for his role behind the shipment of 4.9 lbs of methamphetamine or "ice" in 2015 to the CNMI, is appealing to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Zhaopeng Chen, through counsel David G. Banes, told the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday that he will ask the Ninth Circuit to reverse the final judgment in his criminal case.

Banes said the appeal includes all court orders and rulings prior to and during the jury trial, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's denial of the motion to acquit Chen, and the sentence imposed on Chen.

In an earlier interview, Banes expressed surprised at the jurors' guilty verdict, since the two main witnesses testified that either Chen was not involved in the "ice" shipment or he wasn't sure that Chen was involved.

Last Sept. 7, a federal jury reached a unanimous verdict finding Chen guilty of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

Last Dec. 19, Manglona sentenced Chen to a 63-month prison term—five years and three months, with credit for 379 days of time served.

The indictment charged Chen, Xi Huang, and Shicheng Cai, all Chinese nationals, with conspiracy with the intent to distribute methamphetamine.

Huang and Cai pleaded guilty.

Huang, who was tagged as the leader of the group, was sentenced to 15 years and eight months in prison.

Cai was slapped with 51 months in prison.

Customs inspectors discovered the contraband hidden in one of nine paint buckets during a routine inspection of a container from China on Dec. 2, 2015.

Local and federal enforcers conducted a surveillance operation that led to the arrest of Huang, Chen, and Cai near Stanford Hotel in San Vicente on Dec. 4, 2015.

Authorities valued the seized "ice" at $850,00 at that time, making it the second largest haul of illegal drugs in CNMI history. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

SPC supports recovery efforts in Fiji

SUVA, Fiji—As flood waters recede across Fiji, disaster management experts from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community are continuing to assist the national government's response and recovery efforts in the wake of a tropical depression that hit the Pacific Island country this past week.

Three technical disaster experts from SPC are providing direct support to the National Emergency Operations Center through the preparation of briefings and situation reports along with planned response and recovery measures such as ensuring water purification is distributed to communities in need.

A Geographic Information Systems mapping expert is also supporting the team to ensure damage assessments and critical disaster data is being analyzed to assist the relief efforts.

The provision of scientific and technical advice support comes in response to a request from Fiji's National Disaster Management Office.

"The government of Fiji is grateful for partners like the [SPC] who continually support the government's lead role in disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response. At the end of the day, this continuous partnership will benefit those communities affected by disasters like the recent tropical depression," National Disaster Management Office director Akapusi Tuifagalele said.

Overall damage is estimated at FJD10.7 million with FJD 8.5 million in damage sustained to roads and FJD 1.8 million to water supply, leaving many communities still without water and power as floodwaters recede.

"Our thoughts are with the country and communities that are starting to recover and as an organization we are committed to deploying disaster response teams and provide technical assistance to reinforce the Fiji government's response efforts as required over the coming weeks as the nation recovers from yet another disaster in less than 12 months," SPC deputy director-general Dr. Audrey Aumua said. ***(SPC)***

Tinian checkpoints

Tinian's Traffic Section will be conducting sobriety checkpoints on the dates and time listed below:

■ Dec. 29, 2016, 6pm to 7:15pm: North- and southbound lane on Broadway Road between Tinian Hardware and Natibu Park.

■ Dec. 29, 2016, 8pm to 9:15pm: West- and eastbound lane on Suzuran Street between Natibu Park and Senior Citizen Center in San Jose Village.

■ Dec. 30, 2016, 6:30pm to 7:45pm: West- and eastbound lane on Grand Street between JJ Mart and Department of Commerce.

■ Dec. 30, 2016, 8pm to 9:15pm: West and eastbound lane on Canal Street between Queen's and Tinian Hardware.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes). ***(DPS)***

3 Kings wins $500 instantly!

On December 19, 2016, Mr. Vasquez, a merchandising supervisor was at Kagman Supermarket to check-up on his merchandisers who were working up there. He bought one Red Hot 7's Instant Scratchies tickets and won himself $500.00 instantly.

NMASA Instant Scratchies Program has had 3 Lucky winners of $5,000 and 3 of $500, just in time for Christmas.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all and GOOD LUCK!

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NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM
Babies learn from the time they are born. One of the ways they learn is through hearing. When a baby is born with hearing loss, many sounds and voices are not heard, and the child's speech and language development can be delayed. CHCC implemented newborn hearing as a standard of care and all babies get their hearing screened shortly after birth.
Ask if your baby passed the test. If you have concerns or your baby needs follow up call 236-8709.
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Printing funded by the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Grant under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration.

Guam, NMI legislatures consider closer ties

Both incoming legislatures of Guam and the CNMI aim to form closer working ties that would benefit each island community, according to Guam senator-elect William Mendiola Castro.

The 34th Guam Legislature will hold its inauguration on Jan. 2 while its counterpart in the CNMI, the 20th, would have its first session on Jan. 9.

The Democrats remain the majority in the Guam Legislature after again securing nine of the 15 seats at stake. Their leadership has also chosen Vice Speaker Sen. Benjamin Cruz to replace Speaker Judith Won Pat, who lost her re-election bid.

In the CNMI, the local GOP has the super majority in the 20th Legislature, winning 15 of the 20 House seats; the Republican leadership chose Rep. Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) to remain the speaker.

Castro, who was a 22-year Democrat before running as a Republican in the last two elections, said they plan to "roll out initiatives every two or three months."

"As two policy makers for two separate island communities that are designed to bridge the gap, I think the mindset is changing and, as a senator, that's what I'm bought in to do. Working together and sharing resources, there is no need to be territorial about what we do or how we do it."

"It is in our mutual interest that we share and work together. I have nothing to lose but everything to gain by doing that," added the soon-to-be former Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans director.

He has already discussed with representative-elect Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) several initiatives that are designed to help bring both communities closer, such as having the medical referral program.

"Two weeks before election, we made a public announcement that we're extending the invitation for the CNMI Liaison Medical Referral Office to be co-located with the Guam Community Office in Adelup, which is the central seat of the Executive Branch of our government."

Castro said the move would benefit the CNMI since it would save them rent and would be closer to the Guam Governor's Office. Gov. Edward B. Calvo, a member of the local Republican Party, is the incumbent chief executive of the Mariana's southernmost island.

"From the management side, we can also talk about what does and doesn't work for you. The most important thing is it sends a symbolic message that we're not treating you as foreigners or from a foreign area."

Surprising result

Castro is one of the six Republicans that won in the last elections in Guam where seven incumbents lost their re-election bid, including Won Pat and majority leader Rory J. Respicio.

"The election results were astounding. I lost in the last elections [2014] and I was a 22-year Democrat but ran as a Republican and I lost."

He again ran as a Republican in the election last month. "And I became the number one Republican. Maybe because of my hard work but I also give credit to my [campaign] team. It was not just me."

Castro said that Guam voters' attitudes are also changing based on the results of the elections. "It is a change in the mindset of the people, the electorate, the voters. I know Republicans and Democrats that voted for years for [their respective parties] and they told me 'we voted so and so out.' Something happened to the mindset of the average voters." ***(Jon Perez)***

GHLI enrolment ends Jan. 31

Enrolment for the government's Group Health and Life Insurance program started on Dec. 19 and would end on Jan. 31. The enrolment would cover active and retired government employees, including their dependents under the GHLI Trust Fund.

The government's health insurance policy program, which was renewed with Aetna International, has also changed its premium effective from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 in 2017. Changes in coverage can be done within Dec. 19, 2016 to Jan. 31, 2017.

Active government employee rates will cost $2.22 (basic), $25.70 (low), and $80.46 (high) with $4.55, $52.68, and $164.95, respectively, if it includes spouse and or dependents. The rates are $7.34, $82.22, and $257.48 if employees plus dependents only.

The rates are different for government retirees at $2.41 (basic), $27.84 (low), and $87.17 (high). Retirees including their spouse and or dependent will each have a rate of $4.93, $57.07, and $178.70; and $7.95, $89.07, and $278.94, respectively if retired employee plus dependents only.

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson said active employees who were not previously covered may now apply, including their dependents as well as retirees who declined enrolment the last time it was opened. "New retirees are able to enroll within the specified time from their retirement date.

Employees and retirees who are currently covered and do not wish to make any changes to their policies are no longer required to re-enroll. However, those who would want to make changes need to fill out a change of enrolment form.

Those who are covered but wish to terminate their policies are also required to complete an enrolment or change request form.

Pacific Insurance Underwriters, Aetna's resident general agent in the CNMI, is assisting the government's GHLI open enrolment. Enrolment or change forms are also available at their offices where their staff is ready to provide assistance and answer questions.

All completed forms must be submitted on or before Jan. 31, 2017. Enrolment and changes made would take effect starting on Jan. 1, 2017. ***(Jon Perez)***

NMC to highlight credit for Prior Learning at info session

The Northern Marianas College will be highlighting its Credit for Prior Learning Program at next week's info session on Jan. 5, 2017. Anyone interested in learning more about this program is invited to attend the session, which will be held at 5:30pm in Room D-1 at NMC's As Terlaje campus.

Credit for Prior Learning is a way that college credit is awarded for knowledge gained through training, employment, and life-experiences, as self-assessed and documented in a portfolio.

Students enrolled in the program may receive up to 30 credit hours toward degree completion.

The Prior Learning Assessment Program is ideal for adult students who wish to complete a degree while working in their careers. The typical student enrolling in this program is generally 25 years or older with at least five years of work experience and meets the general admission requirements of the college.

In addition to the Prior Learning Assessment Program, the info session will feature a discussion on the availability of scholarships for government and private sector employees.

For more information, contact Bobbie Merfalen, dean of Academic Programs and Services, at 237-6706 or email barbara.merfalen@marianas.edu or visit marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DCRM-060

SUBMISSION DATE: January 11, 2017 **TIME: 10:00A.M.**

"PURCHASE OF A HP DESIGN JET Z6200 PHOTO PRODUCTION PRINTER FOR THE DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED A THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTERST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB17-DCRM-061

SUBMISSION DATE: January 11, 2017 **TIME: 10:30 A.M.**

"PURCHASE OF DIGITAL COLOR COPIER, NETWORK PRINTER, SCANNER (W/COLOR SENDING), I-FAX FOR THE DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED A THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTERST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP17-DPL-049

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 03, 2017 **TIME: 10:00A.M.**

"TO COMPLETE A CNMI COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC LAND USE PLAN UPDATE FOR ROTA, TINIAN, SAIPAN, AND THE NORTHERN ISLANDS, A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED ON JANUARY 11, 2017 AT 10:00AM, LOCAL TIME AT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS, 2ND FLOOR JOETEN DANDAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING, SAIPAN. ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING BY EMAIL TO MARIANNE CONCEPCION TEREGEYO, SECRETARY OF DPL, AT mariannet@dpl.gov.mp NO LATER THAN 4:30P.M. LOCAL TIME, JANUARY 18, 2017.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS (CNMI-PR) ARE APPLICABLE TO THIS PROCUREMENT, AND ALSO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **MARIANNE CONCEPCION-TEREGEYO**
SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 07-2016

Opening date: December 28, 2016 **Closing date: January 13, 2017**

Positions: (2) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee (Rota)
(1) General Maintenance-I (Saipan)
(1) ARFF Trainee (Saipan)
(1) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee (Tinian)
(1) Rota Ports Manager
(1) Vessel Traffic Controller (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office is no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, January 13, 2017**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at cpa.personnel@pticom.com or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 *et seq.*, as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) Board hereby gives notice of the Regular Monthly Board Meeting set for Wednesday, December 28, 2016 at 9:00 am at the SHEFA Office, 2nd Floor, Ladera Center Building, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
  1. Roll Call
  2. Adoption of Agenda
  3. Adoption of Minutes from November 23, 2016
II. Public Comments
III. Reports
  1. Administrator
  2. Chair
  3. COMMITTEES
  a. Committee on Awards
  b. Committee on Appeal/ Deferments/Forbearance
  c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
  d. Committee on Program and Development
  e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs
IV. Old Business
  1. SHEFA on Disability
V. New Business
  1. Spring 2017 Application Status
  2. Amended CGPA for new applicants
VI. Executive Session – Appeals (closed)
VII. Misc.
VIII. Next Meeting
IX. Adjournment

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
TINIAN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
PO Box 520059 • San Jose Village • Tinian, MP 96952
Phone (670) 433-2200 • Fax (670) 433-1819
Email: tinianscholarship@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Meeting on Thursday, December 29, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at the Northern Marianas College, Tinian campus, building B (room E) in San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes December 04, 2016

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS[1]

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION[2]

IV. NEW BUSINESS
1. Appeal Hearing

V. MISCELLANEOUS MATTER

VI. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

VII. ADJOURNMENT

/S/Antonio L. Borja
Chairman

Scientists, UOG student to explore Marianas Trench

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A team of scientists specializing in multiple branches of life sciences and a University of Guam student will be exploring the Marianas Trench on Dec. 29 with the help of remotely controlled vehicles.

Schmidt Ocean Institute communications manager Carlie Wiener, whose team recently came from exploring the largely unexplored Mariana Back-Arc, told *Saipan Tribune* that research vessel *Falkor* had nine scientists on board, along with a journalist and the remotely operated underwater vehicle team and crew.

The crew explored the back spine of the Marianas Trenchm known as the Mariana Back-Arc, an extremely deep area of the trench teeming with life at depths of about 13,000 feet.

"The next expedition leaves Guam on Dec. 29 and transits to Honolulu. During that time *Falkor* will be stopping at Johnston Atoll to conduct mapping of seamounts," said Wiener in an email.

Joining the expedition is UOG student Andrew Kang, who is pursuing a master's degree in biology with the UOG Marine Laboratory. Kang said the opportunity to be on *Falkor* will be beneficial to him in the long run.

"All of my past research dealt with coastal habitats, so I wanted to try out something different. The deep sea has always been of interest to me because there is so much of it that is still unexplored and unknown. I believe that this opportunity will be the perfect chance for me to get exposure to deep sea research," said Kang in a message.

"It's going to be a busy 19 days aboard the R/V *Falkor* but I'm ready to put forth my best effort. I'm still at the beginning of my research career, so I'm always striving to learn new things and improve what I already know," he added.

Kang was born in Guam but finished his bachelor's degree in biology at the University of Texas in Austin.

"I can't wait to depart on the 29th; the longest I've been out at sea is a day so I'm really looking forward to just being out in the open blue," said Kang.

The research vessel just returned from exploring the Marianas Back-Arc in early December. That area has been found to house hydrothermal vents with possibilities of recent lava flows. Once the researchers returned to the vent systems, they brought with them a remotely operated vehicle equipped with a high-definition camera, in which the researchers were able to take pictures and see species that may have just been discovered and are found nowhere else on the planet.

For pictures and more info, visit https://schmidtocean.org/cruise-log-post/going-deeper-mariana-back-arc/.

SCHMIDT OCEAN INSTITUTE

Limpets, shrimps, and crabs gather around a hydrothermal vent 3,500 meters deep.

NOAA releases Pacific action plan for climate science

Would you like to track climate-related changes or see better environmental forecasts? NOAA Fisheries is proud to share its Regional Action Plan for climate science. This plan identifies effective management strategies in the face of changing climate and ocean conditions, and it provides decision makers with the information they need to make climate-ready decisions.

The goal of the plan is to increase the production, delivery, and use of climate-related information to help reduce impacts to, and increase resilience of, the region's living marine resources and resource-dependent communities.

NOAA Fisheries' Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center is collaborating with others around the region to acquire the necessary scientific data and information for science-based strategies that sustain fisheries, healthy ecosystems, and coastal communities. This science will be used to inform policy and management decisions. "Climate-ready" management will be precautionary, preemptive, and flexible enough to respond rapidly to changing environmental conditions.

The Pacific Islands region spans both the south and north Pacific, from American Samoa to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and from the main Hawaiian Islands to the CNMI. The region hosts a wide array of living marine resources, from bigeye tuna (one of the most valuable) to coral reefs (one of the most at-risk from climate change).

In the coming years, the Pacific Islands are expected to experience increased ocean temperatures; rising sea level; increased ocean acidity; lower ocean productivity; and changes in ocean currents, weather patterns, and extreme weather.

Scientists have already observed many of these changes, which are projected to intensify further. Because ecosystems and communities will be impacted by these changes in many ways, decision-makers need information on the timing, nature, and magnitude of climate-related impacts to this region's valuable marine resources.

Climate-related changes are already impacting the distribution and abundance of marine resources, and these impacts are expected to increase with continued changes in the climate and ocean systems.

Coral reef ecosystems are being stressed by both increasing ocean temperatures and increasing ocean acidification. Loss of coral reef habitat negatively impacts both coral reef ecosystems and the people who depend on them.

Low islands in the region are facing rising sea levels, resulting in the loss of coastal habitats for people, as well as sea turtles, sea birds, and monk seals. Rising sea levels are also causing saltwater intrusion, which threatens freshwater and agriculture.

Climate change is projected to reduce the Hawaii-based longline fishery's yield by up to 50 percent by the end of the century, resulting in a loss of food and economic resources.

We've identified seven key needs to fulfill fisheries management and protected species conservation in the Pacific Islands region. Over the next five years, strategies include:

- Identifying climate-informed reference points
- Creating robust management strategies for a changing climate
- Incorporating adaptive decision processes
- Projecting future conditions
- Understanding how things are changing and why
- Tracking changes and providing early warnings
- Building our science infrastructure

Implementing this plan will begin to provide the climate-related information needed to better understand, prepare for, and respond to climate impacts on marine resources and the people who depend on them.

A critical element of this action plan is partnerships. The challenges are great, the issues are complex, and resources are limited. By working together, we can reduce the impacts of climate change on living marine resources, and increase the resilience of the ecosystem to this change, including living marine resources and the people, businesses, and communities that depend on them.

To see the full action plan or learn more about the strategies, visit: www.pifsc.noaa.gov/do/pacific_islands_regional_action_plan.php, ***(NOAA)***

THE GALLEY

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

Staff and officials of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan have their picture taken with mascot Siheky during the re-launch of PIC's The Galley in San Antonio on Dec. 21.

'Marianas-*chan*' application deadline on Dec. 30

Parents and guardians interested in having their child join the Marianas Visitors Authority's "Marianas-*chan*" (Marianas child) auditions are reminded to register by Friday, Dec. 30. Applications are available at www.mymarianas.com, and the MVA is offering $1,000 cash and other prizes to the winner of the auditions on Jan. 7, 2016.

"Marianas-*chan*" will be featured in various MVA marketing and promotional activities in Japan in 2017, beginning in February. In addition to the $1,000 cash prize, travel expenses and a stipend will be provided to "Marianas-*chan*" and their parent or guardian for promotional activities held in Japan and the CNMI.

"We are excited to find a cute and outgoing 'Marianas-*chan*' who will be the new face of the Northern Marianas in Japan for one year," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "This is a wonderful opportunity for the winning family, so we encourage those interested to contact our MVA offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota if they have any questions and to ensure they make Friday's application deadline."

"Marianas-*chan*" will visit Japan to promote tourism and make television appearances, and his or her image will be issued in promotional material and merchandising.

Contestants will have the opportunity to demonstrate any special talent or skill at the live auditions in Saipan. Applicants must be 4-6 years old, reside in the Northern Mariana Islands and be a U.S. citizen. Additional criteria are specified on the application. Interested contestants from Tinian and Rota are invited to submit an application with a 1-2 minute video of the contestant to info@mymarianas.com for call back to the Jan. 7 audition in Saipan. ***(MVA)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Tears for Berlin: Vigilance is the watchword this holiday season

It is too bad that holiday revelers have to look over their shoulders instead of focusing on the spirit of the season. However, that is the state of the world today, as was made clear by the truck attack Monday in Berlin that killed 12 people and injured dozens more at a Christmas market.

The so-called Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, in which a tractor-trailer barreled into the well-known market by the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, toppling a Christmas tree, tables and booths and mowing down tourists and Berliners alike. The tragedy was frighteningly similar to the July 14 terrorist truck attack, also linked to IS, that killed nearly 90 people and injured hundreds more at a Bastille Day celebration in Nice, France.

The attacks underscore the terrorists' interest in "soft targets"—lightly secured or difficult-to-secure venues that attract throngs of people and present maximum opportunity for casualties. The Berlin incident—described as the first mass-casualty attack by Islamist extremists in Germany—also represents an unsettling expansion of the IS footprint. Some Germans fear the attack was perpetrated by an asylum-seeker, as were a handful of smaller-scale incidents of violence in Germany over the summer, not all of them linked to terrorism.

Such attacks not only induce panic among the population but contribute to political divisiveness, from which the terrorists hope to profit. In this case, critics of German Chancellor Angela Merkel have complained about a slow start to the investigation—an initial suspect was let go for lack of evidence—and to her support for immigration.

The U.S. State Department previously had warned traveling Americans to be cautious at events and public places in Europe during the holiday season, and in the wake of the truck attack, German authorities encouraged people to report suspicious activity to a special hotline. Looking over one's shoulder is the best advice for those who refuse to let the threat of terrorism affect their daily plans, and the need for vigilance applies as much to those enjoying local holiday events as it does to tourists in Germany.

America's support for Germany, moral and otherwise, will be important in coming weeks. After a series of terrorist attacks in Paris last year, people around the world expressed support for France with the expression "Je suis Paris"—"I am Paris." Now, the Berlin attack gives new meaning to the words John F. Kennedy famously uttered in 1963 in West Berlin: "Ich bin ein Berliner"—"I am a Berliner."

(c) 2016 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

COOLER HEADS ARE WAITING TO SEE WHAT TRUMP WILL ACTUALLY DO WHEN HE ASSUMES THE OFFICE, UNLIKE THE ALARMISTS WHO FOOLISHLY RUSH IN...
HITCH
RUSSIAN! HE SAID RUSSIAN!!
NOW IT'S TIME TO PANIC!

Why we should 'normalize' Trump

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com*

President-elect Donald Trump is being normalized before our eyes. On Monday, the electoral college cast its votes in the customary way; despite pleas and demonstrations, only two Republican electors rebelled. Soon, Trump will have an entire Cabinet list ready for nomination, just like an ordinary president. And on Jan. 20, less than a month from now, he'll take the oath of office and give an inaugural address, with President and Mrs. Obama looking on in support (if not exactly approval).

Just like normal.

At every step, anguished opponents have appealed to the public, to the media and to Congress: Don't normalize Trump.

In a narrow sense, they're right: When Trump violates norms of public conduct—by lying about nonexistent voter fraud, refusing to accept evidence of Russian hacking or dismissing concern over conflicts of interest—nobody should pretend that's normal.

But that kind of "normalization" isn't happening. There's been plenty of tough media coverage of all those issues, and even a few Republicans have been critical of their president-elect.

Often though, the demand for "no normalization" goes further, including:

If you're a Democratic politician, don't negotiate over Trump's legislation. If you're a high-tech executive, don't meet with him. If you're a reporter, don't report his every utterance or chase his every tweet.

In short, don't recognize Trump's presidency as legitimate. "Not My President," the signs and hashtags say.

Too late; the battle over legitimacy is over. However flawed the election, Trump is about to be your president, whether you like it or not.

He'll propose legislation, and some of it will pass. His aides will write (or revoke) regulations, and some of their actions will stick. He'll make decisions on war and peace, with life-or-death consequences.

That's why we now need to return to the original, first meaning of "normalize," which isn't about describing something odd as if it were OK; it's about actually changing something abnormal into a more normal state.

What the rest of us, including Republicans, need to do is turn the tables and demand that Trump normalize himself—because he's the only one who can.

We should ask him to be normal.

We should demand that he do what he said he would do on election night: Try to unite the country. Speak out against racism and division (hypocritically, perhaps, because he used division to win the election, but better late than never).

We should hold him to his campaign promises: more jobs (including in the Rust Belt), a better (and cheaper) healthcare system, a better life for African-Americans.

That's how a normal president gets judged.

It's probably too much to ask that Trump embrace his critics and listen in case they have something useful to say; few presidents reach that level of virtue. But we should expect him to at least listen to the pleas of his advisors that he stop tweeting every time he's angry about a parody on "Saturday Night Live"; a normal president wouldn't do that.

We should ignore the abnormal advice of his aide Anthony Scaramucci, who said this week: "Don't take him literally, take him symbolically." No dice. We should hold him to the standards a normal president has to meet, including truthfulness—literally.

For the media, treating Trump as a normal president means we should cover Trump and his administration as aggressively as we can. The media accord most presidents a presumption of honesty when they come into office; Trump forfeited that during the campaign. Newspapers and broadcasters should continue to use words like "false," "bogus" and even "lie" in reporting his tall tales.

What's more, this is an opportunity for a renaissance of investigative reporting. An administration staffed partly with rookies and hotheads is going to have plenty of problems. A first family with global business holdings will run into conflicts of interest, even if they try to avoid them (which this one isn't, so far).

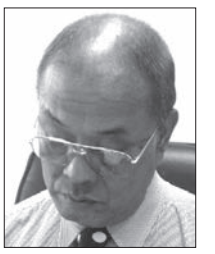
(Note to readers: This would be a good time to support your local newspaper with a subscription, or a journalism nonprofit with a contribution.)

That doesn't mean no off-the-record sessions at Mar-a-Lago. The media know when a politician is trying to co-opt them. Trump isn't the first president-elect to offer a reporter a drink. He knows he'll need goodwill from the people he described as dishonest scum.

We should give Trump a chance—a chance to normalize himself, in the sense of complying with the norms every president should observe. Giving him a chance doesn't mean giving him a break; quite the contrary. It means subjecting him to tough scrutiny, holding him to high standards and judging him against his own promises. In short, treating him like a normal president—whether he likes it or not.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Despedidan Sakan 2016



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Gi hinanau este na sakan sige ta dibina haf` mamamaila` para i sakan 2017. Mas mauleg, parehu mattiru, pat mesklau? I sigiente i sinienteg-hu:

Sin ditension, ha hatsa sueddun niha dos, tres buettas i man-ma`gas hegsu` I Deni mientras mapatten tiau i tetehnan gi pumalu empleau ni mas numesessita ayudu para familian niha.

Finu` mañainata todu tinituhun ni baba siempre baba uttimoña. Lau este na dibina gaige gi kada unu giya hita gi haf` lini`eta.

Ti marepara na i dididi` na rinikohen aduana (tax) esta ha` linachai ni kantidan dibi yan obligasion gobietnu. Gi hilu` este na diskuidu siempre u mas chafleg kinalamten ekonomian iya Marianas. Taftaf maselebra i dikiki` na adelantu ya pa`gu marepapara na megaiña dibi.

Ha rikohe $43 miyon pesus mientras nina` ñgaha` ni $53 miyon pesus tutat na dibi! Dispues, ma-upus ti mana` saunau i dibin $779 gi hagas programan maritirau. Dios mihu!

Dispues fatsu fondun para i hospitat, sisteman edukasion yan ayudun federat ni para u fan ma-utut desde otru sakan. Ha inklusu food stamps, Medicaid yan ayudun atkilon guma` para fanliheñg familia.

I federat sino Congresson Amerika dañkulu ditetminasioña para u utut todu programa para u apase i biyon pot biyon pesus na dibin federat ($20 Trillion). Maliñgu asunto-ta gi halum este na rimulinu.

Debi umapublika lokue` kuantu i presenti na dibin gobietnu yan tutat enteru dibi. Ginen este `nai siña tali`e haf` fuetsan monedan iya Marianas.

Presisu este na infotmasion pot sessu oppan na tai fondu i hospitat sino ti ma-apapasi dibin gobietnu gi PSS $10.3 miyon pesus yan $30 miyon gi CUC.

Umpañg Dibi: Yangin enfin guaha adelantu, u fan e`ensinahyau i mansabiun I Deni` para u fan ayau $120 Miyon pesus para i manritirau? Otru planun para uma-atgoya i los prohimus para i 2018 na eleksion gobietnu. Na ti trenta años estake para umana` empas este na dibi? Propiu yan kau dinanche na disision i para fuetsau umana` fan chatsaga famaguonta pot mantai planu ni mauleg?

Gi hilu` este na planun dibi kontra i famaguonta, esta ma-apase dibin gobietnu ni debi uma-apase na sakan segun i mandatun konstitusion? Kuantu guaha na dibi gi presente? Kuantu todu i dibin gobietnu ni ti ma-apapase?

Kuantu esta ma-apase i hagas programan manritirau ni madidibi kasi $779 miyon pesus? Nahuñg na fiñkas para operasion hospitat, sisteman edukasion yan apas kandet?

Yangin todu i birada puru pot dibi, pues kasi siña ta po`lu na i hiniyuñg este na sakan libre tafana`an Sakan Umpañg Miyon pot Miyon na Dibi? Na ti hamyu i tropan satbasion?

Chafleg: Iya Japon ha apprueba inestablesen industrian casino giya Osaka yan Yokohama. I mas nachatsaga i machalapun sagun mahatsan mas fasilidat casino entalu` Singapore, Saipan, Fililpinas, Macau, South Korea, Vietnam yan otru siha lugat.

Siña ha` mauleg na konseptu i nuebu na fasilidat siha lau `nai mampus megai kompitensia pues mas lokue` menus i ganansia. Yangin ta angoñgoghu i bisita siha ginen oriya-ta para i industrian casino guine, guaha mohon chansa para dañkulu na ganansia?

I maguiguife na planu siha gi halum nuebu na konseptun casino man-mauleg. Gi mismu tiempu ilelegña un` estudiu guse`ña machum sino pininu` i bisnis `nai inipus mampus megai parehu fasilidat gi oriya. Taiguine masusedi giya America `nai manmahatsa gi bisinu siha na estados mas fasilidat casino. Lamegai sumufa` mattiñgan sin ditension.

Chalapon: I ekonomian tanu` mas asegurau `nai ma-adelanta otru patte siha guine. Debi u saunau agrikuttura, peskan tasi yan mandikiki` siha na bisnis. I industrian turista fuera de inipus paska ti añgoghuyun sa` kada hulu` papa`, segun i kinalamten oriyata siha na ekonomia.

Dudayu` kau una`lu tatte bisitan ginen Japon dispues de tachoneg huyuñg desde alacha. Kontodu iya Korea otru lugat marikononose pa`gu para tautau niha. I Chinu siempre umatompu` piot gi fina` inachachag yan America. Klaru na makat ta añgoghu este na patte gi ekonomia.

Gi hilu` diskuidun ginen halum, obligau na u guaha inatuñgu` man-ma`gas iya Marianas haf` na planu mauleg u fan mapetsige. Rason? Dispues de todu i buruka hita mismu man-sopbla gi santatte. Pot fabot na guaha inatuñgu` planu `nai siña mañaunau i tautauta gi hilu` amtau na inadiñgan.

Futtunata: I mañan manma-elihe debi tapega gi hilu` espehus publiku para ta pulan haf` siha na asuntu manma-ayeg kumu priniponen areglu para i linahyan.

Mauleg na ihemplu ni presisu ta guatdia yan chaba i chechu` achibau para u hatsa sueddun niha ni sumen guaguan. Mana` fo`na betsan niha de hemunus ni publiku ni hagas maluñu` ni tropan republican. Mauleg mohon este na planu?

Ti huli`e rason haf` na para u hatsa sueddun niha gi taiguine na fatsun setbisiu. Gi finu` komputa, "trash-in, trash-out". Yangin enfin klaru na man-animu ma-atetuye fitme siha na pinetsige pot adelantun kualidat linala` gi tautau-ta, buenu! Lau gi taiguine na modu maulegña ta bira hit umusuni tinanum yan pinegsai ga`ga` gi tatten guma` sino i lanchu sa` mas asegurau kareta.

Saludu: Gi hilu` pinasensia siempre ta aregla man-sustansiau siha na finatsu ni humogsi hit desde man-ma`pus siha na sakan. Matatñga i natibu rumikohe tatte chinatsagaña pot para u disembra manu `nai ti doku` i simiya.

Guaha finu` man-amko`: "Muñga mañaluda ni ti tihoñg-mu". Ha yayama attension-ta para tachogue haf` i dinanchi. Muñga na un` banidosuye asuntu gi finacho`chu` i otru. Magahet na para un` fatta na mikepbli hau ginen finababamu gi otru tautau?

I kehan kotte pot MV Luta prefektu ihemplu pot mañaluda gi finacho`chu` todu empleau ni umapasi kuentan niha aduana sino tax. Ahe` ti pot betgansa lau pot fabot tatiye mandatun lai ya cha`mu u`usa puestomu faborapble para i familiamu. Kontra este na aksion yan lai pot Ethics!

Gi katkuet manera guaha sufisiente guatdian lai gi papa` sisteman demokrasia gi proteksion enteru i publiku. Todu lai parehu applikapbli gi kada unu na sudadanu! Gigon un` mueye kodumu gi lachi, pues siempre un` tinagam ni ginagagau gi papa` lai.

Man-suette hit na sisteman demokrasia modun gobietnota sino` lamegai manafan tailaye sin presisu! Dios mihu!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hoping for the best

The horrific scenes of death and destruction in Syria/Aleppo make me sad and outraged as I look to our do-nothing President Obama and the equally do-nothing Congress for leadership. I can't believe we can just stand around and wring our hands along with the do-nothing UN that is absolutely worthless and useless in this tragic situation. I have many disagreements with President-elect Donald Trump but I do wish him well as he takes over in January. It's a monumental job and I sincerely hope he can come up with a plan to end the fiasco in Syria and try to solve the many problems facing our nation.

Herb Stark
Mooresville, NC 28117

Clinton excuses that don't work

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

Bill Clinton has figured out why his wife lost the presidential election. It was angry white men, the Russians and FBI director James Comey. More nearly, in fact, it was angry white women, Americans and Bubba himself.

Clinton revealed his own angry conclusions in an impromptu session at a New York bookstore, calling Donald Trump dumb except in his ability to get presumably dumber white men to vote for him.

Many did, of course, but the unexpected voter whammy for Hillary Clinton—at one point happily set to be the first woman president, espousing feminist causes every other minute and shown in polls to be killing Trump with the female vote—was what white women actually did at the ballot box.

Trump got 53 percent of their votes. Inevitable Hillary turned out to be disposable Hillary because many in the white middle class of both genders felt let down and left out. Much of this has been revealed in surveys showing concern, for instance, about the future of beloved children and how once-glowing opportunities have turned dim.

And the electoral effect of Clinton campaign emails that were supposedly supplied to WikiLeaks by Russians cheering for Trump? There is no way of knowing for sure, but a safe bet is that it was somewhere between nil and very little.

As Bill Clinton himself used to say about what wins and loses elections, it's the economy, stupid. And here was Trump talking about turning things upside down for the sake of economic oomph while Hillary Clinton preached same old, same old. It probably did not impress some Americans much when she also called them names during one of her endless huddles with rich donors likely convinced they were making a sound investment in maintaining the status quo.

Now we get to Comey, beloved by Democrats when he let Hillary Clinton off the prosecutorial hook even as he revealed how incredibly careless she had been with national security information as secretary of state. The infatuation turned to fury when it became public through a letter to Congress that he was reopening the investigation with 11 days left before the election.

The news likely hurt, but other things were hurting more, such as new information on Obamacare costs, and, at any rate, Bill Clinton can be seen as being as much the villain as Comey in this announcement.

Comey could have been stopped. Attorney General Loretta Lynch had authority to do it. It was her call. She had in fact made clear to Comey that she did not want him to do what he did, that she thought it violated Justice Department protocols. So why didn't she flat-out say no?

Perhaps because she had been compromised? Bill Clinton had gone out of his way at an airport to sneakily visit her on her private plane. This was when the investigation was going on, and both had to know that, if the chat time became publicized, they would be seen as secretly conniving on how to save Hillary.

To go ahead with it anyway suggests Clinton thought it was worth the risk to keep his wife out of trouble. And the possibility of such a discovery did not stop Lynch. Why not? Maybe she was just taken by surprise and temporarily befuddled about what to do. She later said how much she regretted the meeting.

At any rate, here is my surmise. When she could have stopped Comey, she did not because she knew everyone would point to the airplane confab and assume she had come to a political understanding. Her reputation would be in shreds. Forever after, she would be identified as politically corrupt. Many would not see it as her legal expertise and conscience at work but as Bill Clinton at work. You be the jury.

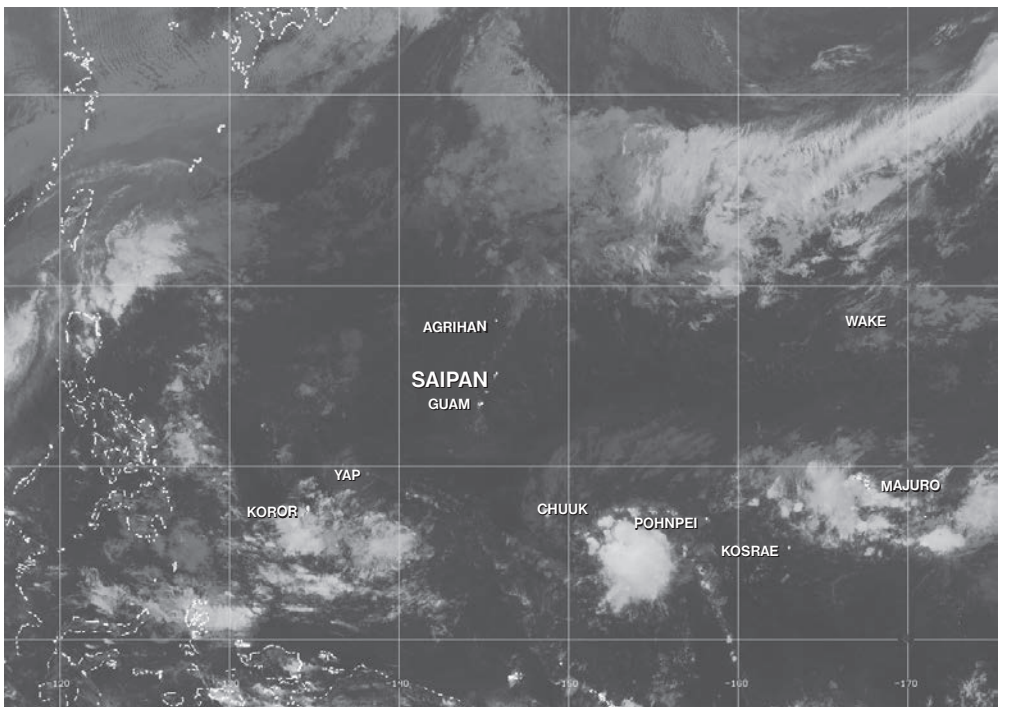
Obviously much more was at play in the election outcome than the factors mentioned above, but ongoing Clintonian duplicity is surely part of what defeated Hillary.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:40 AM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marinas waters. The VAD wind profile reveals east-southeast winds of 7 to 19 knots through the lowest 5 thousand feet of the air. Above this they turn toward the east through 11 thousand feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Mostly sunny	79 / 88 °F
Palau	Morning clouds	78 / 88 °F
Yap	Partly cloudy	79 / 86 °F
Chuuk	Heavy rain	80 / 85 °F
Pohnpei	Heavy rain	79 / 84 °F
Kosrae	Mostly cloudy	82 / 85 °F
Majuro	Partly sunny	80 / 84 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Showers	58 / 67 °F
Beijing	High level clouds	12 / 35 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	53 / 58 °F
Honolulu	Mostly sunny	72 / 80 °F
London	High level clouds	35 / 47 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	48 / 74 °F
Manila	Morning clouds	78 / 89 °F
Melbourne	Morning clouds	70 / 85 °F
Miami	Partly cloudy	72 / 80 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	35 / 41 °F
Osaka	Morning clouds	32 / 46 °F
Paris	High level clouds	37 / 47 °F
Pusan	High level clouds	32 / 44 °F
Rome	Mostly sunny	36 / 55 °F
Salem	Overcast	34 / 44 °F
San Francisco	Mostly sunny	44 / 59 °F
Seoul	Sunny	11 / 31 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	36 / 47 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly sunny	38 / 48 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
1:12 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.2 Feet
8:05 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.78 Feet
1:29 PM	LOW TIDE	1.13 Feet
6:25 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.86 Feet

	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:42 AM	5:56 PM
Thursday	6:42 AM	5:56 PM
Friday	6:42 AM	5:57 PM
Saturday	6:43 AM	5:57 PM
Sunday	6:43 AM	5:58 PM

	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:29 AM	5:10 PM	-
Thursday	6:19 AM	5:58 PM	-
Friday	7:08 AM	6:49 PM	-
Saturday	7:57 AM	7:41 PM	-
Sunday	8:44 AM	8:33 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 5, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	7, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Council questions impacts of marine monuments

HONOLULU—The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council had hoped that when President Obama visited Honolulu in early December, he would acknowledge the $100 million commercial fishing industry in Hawaii and the impacts on that fisher by his expansions of the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and the Pacific Remote Islands MNM, which includes nearby Johnston Atoll. The value of the Hawaii longline fishery is excess of $300 million when factoring in retail markets and support industries and their employees.

The National Marine Fisheries Service's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center has reported that the expanded Papahanuamokueakea MNM may account for a potential loss of about 2.5 million lbs per year of tuna and other pelagic species worth on average $8 million, more than $9 million in fishery support businesses (e.g., fuel, gear, ice, etc.), $4.2 million in household income and $0.5 million in tax revenue and affect more than 100 jobs. The impact will be much greater on fishermen who historically utilized the U.S. waters around the NWHI as their primary fishing grounds as well as smaller boats that are restricted in their range. Given these economic impacts, the Council believes that prohibiting commercial fishing in this area should be phased in.

On Dec. 1, 2016, the Council sent its fifth letter to Obama about its concerns with the NWHI MNM expansion and a sixth letter about the impacts of the three other marine national monuments that have been proclaimed in the U.S. Pacific Islands. The Rose Atoll, Pacific Remote Islands and Marianas Trench MNMs impact the fisheries of not only Hawaii but also American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as well as local and US mainland seafood consumers. The Obama administration has not responded to any of the Council's previous four letters, which were sent over the past nine months.

Presidential proclamations through the Antiquities Act have banned commercial fishing in 61 percent of U.S. waters around the Hawaiian Islands and have placed 51 percent of U.S. waters around the U.S. Pacific Islands under MNM designation. The Antiquities Act requires that monuments be proclaimed for the smallest size needed for conservation of resources of scientific and cultural interest. Obama has invoked future climate change impacts on biodiversity as one of the primary reasons for the presidential action in his proclamations expanding the NWHI and Pacific Remote Islands MNMs.

Climate change impacts occur over much larger areas than contained in any marine monument. The Council believes climate change impacts will not be mitigated by prohibiting the commercial catch of a well-managed and enforced U.S. fishery in discrete areas of U.S. waters. Furthermore, the Council has repeatedly questioned the use of the Antiquities Act for marine conservation of tuna, billfish and other highly migratory species, which move well beyond the monument boundaries.

"The Antiquities Act process circumvents the National Environmental Policy Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, both of which require environmental, social and economic analysis and public input," notes Council executive director Kitty M. Simonds.

Prior to the expansion of the NWHI monument, which spans an area four times the size of Texas, about 10 percent of the fishing effort of the Hawaii longline fleet were in these monument waters. Another 10 percent were in the U.S. waters around nearby Johnston Atoll, which Obama closed to fishing when he expanded the Pacific Remote Islands MNM in 2014.

"The push for the monuments was driven not by popular demand but by a Washington, D.C.-based environmental organization, the Pew Environment Group, which has had the ear of successive presidents," explains council chair Edwin Ebisui Jr. "A Pew funded study estimated that the Marianas Trench MNM would result in $10 million per year in direct spending, $5 million per year in tax and the creation of 400 jobs. Needless to say, neither Guam nor the CNMI has seen any economic benefits from the monument. After seven years a monument management plan has not been completed by NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Now there is talk about overlaying the monument status with a national marine sanctuary designation."

While the local governments have received no economic benefit from the monuments, NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been receiving $3 million per year for "monument management," notes the council's letter about the Marianas Trench, Pacific Remote Islands and Rose Atoll MNMs. At the same time, the U.S. Coast Guard and NOAA Office of Law Enforcement have not received additional funds or assets to increase patrols of the monument waters.

The council was established by Congress in 1976 and has authority over fisheries seaward of state/territory waters in the U.S. Pacific Islands pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Act. For more information and to download the letters, go to www.wpcouncil.org, email info@wpcouncil.org or phone (808) 522-8220. ***(Wespac)***

New Zealand govt, SPC strengthen partnership

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—The government of New Zealand and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community have signed an agreement to support the scientific and technical organization's continued delivery of development services to its member countries and territories over the next three years (2017-2019).

The multi-year grant funding arrangement was co-signed by New Zealand's general consul in Noumea, Justin Fepuleai, and the SPC's deputy director-general, Cameron Diver, at the New Zealand Consulate in Noumea. "New Zealand, as a founding member of SPC, is committed to supporting long-term sustainable development in the Pacific," Fepuleai said.

"We are pleased to enter this next phase of our partnership with SPC, a Pacific-owned organization that works for the wellbeing of Pacific people through effective and innovative application of science and knowledge."

Under the three-year agreement, New Zealand has committed in excess of NZD 18.5 million in funding to SPC.

This flexible funding will support SPC's development initiatives across a number of sectors including geoscience, land resources, fisheries, aquaculture and marine ecosystems, statistics for development and public health. It also supports cooperation between Pacific Island countries through attachments for staff to improve technical capacity.

A significant innovation is the creation of an "incubator fund" to enhance collaboration between SPC and New Zealand technical and scientific agencies.

The agreement also makes available a single contribution of NZD 600,000 to support the work SPC is undertaking to strengthen its organizational and financial systems and capacity.

"We are delighted to have the support and confidence of New Zealand, to progress the work being done to accompany sustainable development in our Pacific Island member States and Territories and to support the objectives of SPC's Strategic Plan," Diver said.

SPC is the principal scientific and technical organization in the Pacific region, supporting sustainable development since 1947. It is an intergovernmental development organization owned and governed by its 26 country and territory members, including New Zealand. ***(SPC)***

Reginio, Salazar are McDonald's employees for '16

By MICHAEL T. SANTOS
michael.santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The night was definitely memorable for Celso Reginio and Jason Salazar after winning employee of the year awards from McDonald's during their company party last Saturday night.

The annual celebration at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall pampered its guests with drinks, a buffet, and live performances by fellow coworkers. Employees were presented with a series of awards throughout the night.

Reginio, the employee of the year from McDonald's Middle Road branch, said, "I didn't expect to win this. For someone who has been working for only eight to nine months, I'm really honored to even be considered, let alone be its recipient."

Salazar, the employee of the year for McDonald's Garapan, said, "It feels very, very good to receive it. I feel incredibly appreciated for all the work I've done from the past year and I'm so thankful to McDonald's for everything they've done for me."

The perfect attendance winners from the main store included Charlie Achas, Myrna Pagcu, and Gil Gapor, while the Garapan branch's winners were Florie Binongo, Gerald Bautista, and Marineth Cruz.

Joe Ayuyu Jr., manager of McDonald's Middle Road, said "This event is important for our employees because it's our company's way of showing our appreciation to them. Coming together as a big family, it's very important to not only reach out to them, but their families and people they care about, so we can fully extend our thanks for a job well done."

The awards for employee of the quarter went to Roselyn Janairo from the Middle Road branch and Jason Salazar from the Garapan branch for the first quarter.

Milagros King and Dexter Castro received the same awards for the second quarter, while Celso Reginio and Mary Grace Castro won for the third quarter. Theodore Ladra and Sherwin Gaspar were recipients of the fourth quarter awards.

Mabel Ayuyu, executive assistant to the president, said, "I think the event was fantastic! We almost hit 100 percent in attendance and this is just one of the ways we show our appreciation to the employees. The company wishes to extend its sincerest appreciation to its vendors for the night, sponsors, leaders, president and owner of McDonald's on Saipan and Guam Joe Ayuyu and all crewmembers on Saipan and in Guam."

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

Representatives call out raffle ticket numbers for random giveaways during McDonald's annual company party held at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe on Dec. 24.

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

Employee of the year awardees Celso Reginio, middle right, and Jason Salazar, middle left, pose for a group photo with McDonald's representative during their company party at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe on Dec. 24.

Business

Liz Weston: 6 money resolutions you can actually keep

By LIZ WESTON
NERDWALLET

AP
This file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com.

Let's face the grim truth: Those 10 pounds you want to lose will likely be among your New Year's resolutions next year, too.

If you really want a sense of accomplishment, take care of money tasks that don't require ongoing discipline and that you typically don't have to repeat every year. Some of these are "one and done," while others you may have to revisit as your life changes, but all will give you a sense of progress toward your financial goals.

■ Consolidate retirement accounts. Consolidating makes it easier to monitor your investments and can save you money. Investment choices in 401(k)s typically cost significantly less than those available outside the plans, and many large-company 401(k)s offer dirt-cheap funds not available to retail investors. If you have a good 401(k), ask your employer if you can transfer your old retirement accounts into it. Otherwise, consider rolling old accounts into a single IRA at a discount brokerage. For even more simplicity, consider low-cost target-date retirement funds that relieve you of the ongoing need to rebalance your accounts.

■ Buy life insurance. Not everyone needs life insurance, but if you do, you likely need a lot of it. If anyone else depends on your paycheck or your child-rearing services, you need to calculate your future obligations and subtract your current resources to see how much insurance to buy. Life insurance calculators can help you refine the numbers; USAA has a good one. Then get quotes from several carriers. Most people will need to opt for term insurance, which is vastly cheaper than insurance that has an investment component, such as whole life.

■ Set up savings buckets. Imagine never having to scramble to pay a big bill, whether it's holiday expenses, a car repair or your property taxes. That's possible when you set up savings accounts dedicated to specific costs. Online banks typically allow you to set up multiple accounts at no extra cost. For each goal, figure out how much you'll need to pay the bill when it's due, and divide by the number of paychecks you'll get between now and then. Set up a regular transfer for that amount, and the cash will be waiting for you when you need it. For less predictable bills, such as car repairs, you can use the previous year's bills or Edmunds.com's True Cost to Own feature to estimate likely costs.

■ Refinance your student loans. If you have good credit, you may be able to lower the interest rates on your education debt. Refinancing to a lower rate is pretty much a no-brainer when you have private student loans. With federal student loans, you'd be giving up some pretty important protections, such as income-based repayment plans and more generous forbearance and deferment options. That may be a gamble worth taking if you have a solid job and can pay off the debt quickly. Otherwise, consider refinancing any private loans separately and apply the amount you save to your federal loan bills. That will help you get rid of them faster.

■ Write your will. If you don't have stuff or pets or minor children—or you do, but don't care what happens to them—keep putting this off. Otherwise, you can use Quicken WillMaker software or a site like LegalZoom to draft a simple will. If you have a more complicated situation or you want expert help—not a bad idea when it comes to end-of-life issues—your local bar association can offer referrals to estate-planning attorneys.

■ Check your beneficiaries. You typically have to name beneficiaries when you open retirement accounts and buy life insurance, but you also may have named them for bank or other financial accounts. Some states allow you to designate "transfer on death" beneficiaries for vehicles and even real estate . The people you name in most cases will get the money, even if you've since divorced or named somebody else in your will or living trust. You can check and change many financial beneficiary designations online. Self-help legal site Nolo has information about naming, changing and revoking beneficiaries for cars and homes.

You'll want to review your beneficiaries and most of the other tasks on this list after any major life change, such as a birth, adoption, marriage, divorce or death. Until then, count these as resolutions you were able to keep.

This column was provided to The Associated Press by the personal finance website NerdWallet.

Liz Weston is a certified financial planner and columnist at NerdWallet. *Email: lweston@nerdwallet.com . Twitter: @lizweston.*

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fake news story sets off Israel-Pakistan Twitter feud

JERUSALEM (AP)—A fake news story has touched off a tense Twitter confrontation between nuclear power Pakistan and Israel, widely believed to have a nuclear arsenal of its own, in an episode that underlines the potentially harmful impact of such stories in sensitive global affairs In an apparent response to a fake story claiming Israel's former defense minister threatened a nuclear attack against Pakistan if it sends troops to Syria, Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif reminded Israel that "Pakistan is a nuclear state too." Israel's Defense Ministry tweeted back Saturday, saying the original story on the site AWD News was "totally fictitious." AWD has been identified by fact-checking organizations as a fake news site. Israel maintains a policy of nuclear ambiguity, neither confirming nor denying the existence of an arsenal. Pakistan became a nuclear power in 1998. The countries have no diplomatic ties.

Cancer patient donates year's worth of pizza to food bank

NORTHAMPTON, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania man going through treatment for colon cancer won a pizza parlor's raffle for a year's worth of free pies and then donated his prize to a food bank. Thirty-six-year-old Josh Katrick, of Northampton, had just completed his eighth round of chemotherapy when he learned he was the winner of a contest sponsored by his favorite neighborhood restaurant. After hearing of Katrick's plans to donate the pizza to the Northampton Food Bank, the owners of Mario's Pizza decided to double down and offer the prize to both him and the food bank. Katrick says he's been getting so much from family, friends and strangers during the past few months that he wanted to give back to those who could use the pizza more. Roughly 1,200 people entered the contest.

Don't put up with complainers and don't wear perfume

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.*

Q: With one exception, everything about my job is terrific. I work for an upscale hotel, which is preparing me for a career in hospitality management. My boss is a great mentor, and most of my colleagues are upbeat and enthusiastic. However, one of them is a real mood-killer.

"Anna" starts complaining as soon as she walks through the door. Our manager is her primary target, but Anna makes disparaging comments about everyone, including co-workers and customers. She also loves to gossip and enjoys telling malicious stories about certain staff members.

Anna doesn't seem to care that hotel guests can often hear her negative remarks. Although I would like to correct this unprofessional behavior, that might put me on Anna's "enemies list." If I mention this to my boss, I'm afraid I'll sound like a tattletale. What should I do?

A: Since Anna's compulsive griping is affecting both employees and guests, someone certainly needs to address it. If you prefer to keep this on a peer level, team up with some other cheerful colleagues and arrange to have a private conversation with Anna. A group discussion will have greater impact and minimize the possibility of retribution.

For example: "Anna, we wanted to talk with you because you are obviously not happy here. Although we're sorry about that, listening to you complain has become rather depressing. We're also concerned that customers who overhear your comments are getting a bad impression of the hotel. So from now on, we're not going to participate in any more gripe sessions."

But if that approach doesn't seem feasible, the business implications provide a perfectly valid reason for involving your boss in this problem. Just be sure to focus on work issues, not Anna's disagreeable personality. Explain that her public complaints may be giving guests the wrong impression, so you thought your manager should know. And to stay off the enemy roster, request that your comments be kept confidential.

Q: My manager often complains about the perfume I wear to work. I tried changing to another brand, but she still didn't like it. She says perfume gives her a headache, so she's moving me to a desk which is farther from her office. This seems unfair, but I'm not sure what to do about it. What's your opinion?

A: You will probably be sorry you asked. My firm belief is that no one should ever wear fragrances to work unless they sell perfume for a living. And I mean absolutely never. These scents serve no practical purpose and are extremely bothersome to many people, some of whom are allergic to the ingredients.

Because everyone's sense of smell is different, a fragrance one person finds pleasing may be quite obnoxious to others. If this particular perfume gives your manager headaches, the odds are good that some co-workers find it irritating as well.

So for the sake of both common courtesy and office harmony, please save the perfume for social occasions. At work, people just need to smell clean.

Nation

Obama vs Trump: Dispute erupts over who would have won

By JOSH LEDERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

President Barack Obama, joined by first lady Michelle Obama, speaks during an event to thank service members and their families at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, Sunday, Dec. 25, 2016.

HONOLULU (AP)—In an alternate universe in which President Barack Obama ran for a third term against Donald Trump, who would have won?

No surprise: The president and the president-elect disagree.

A fresh dispute erupted Monday between Obama and his successor, spurred by Obama's hypothetical musings that had he run again, he would have been victorious. Interviewed for a podcast, Obama suggested he still holds enough sway over the coalition of voters that elected him twice to get them to vote for him once again.

"I am confident in this vision because I'm confident that if I had run again and articulated it, I think I could've mobilized a majority of the American people to rally behind it," Obama told his former White House adviser, David Axelrod, in a podcast released Monday.

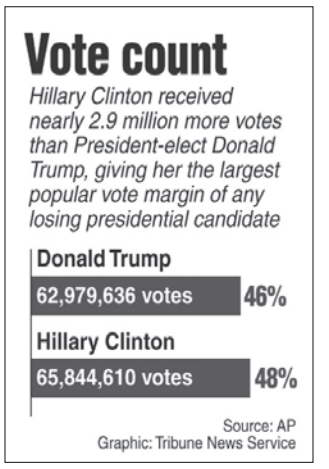
Trump, naturally, disagreed. He took to his preferred medium—Twitter—to offer his reaction.

"President Obama said that he thinks he would have won against me. He should say that but I say NO WAY!" Trump wrote.

He suggested Obama's record would have prevented him from securing a victory, citing jobs that have left the U.S., troubles with Obama's Affordable Care Act and the ongoing threat posed by the Islamic State group as examples.

The White House declined to comment on Trump's tweet.

In the podcast, Obama didn't address whether he would have been able to surmount the obstacle that the Electoral College posed for Hillary Clinton. The Democrat failed to secure a majority of electoral votes despite winning the popular vote by millions.


Vote count
Hillary Clinton received nearly 2.9 million more votes than President-elect Donald Trump, giving her the largest popular vote margin of any losing presidential candidate
Donald Trump
62,979,636 votes
46%
Hillary Clinton
65,844,610 votes
48%
Source: AP
Graphic: Tribune News Service

Yet Obama said he's spoken to people across the U.S. who have told him the direction he pursued "is the right one," a sentiment he said extends even to some people "who disagreed with me." He suggested Democrats' failure in the election may have stemmed from the prevailing assumption that Clinton's victory was all but assured.

"If you think you're winning, then you have a tendency—just like in sports—maybe to play it safer," Obama said.

Though Obama railed against Trump during the campaign, he's largely held his tongue since the Republican's Election Day victory, in large part to ensure a smooth transition of power. He and Trump have spoken regularly by phone, and Trump has praised his predecessor for the graciousness with which he's handled the process.

But in recent days, points of tension between their two teams have started to emerge, driven by Trump's picks of Cabinet nominees who have vowed to dismantle much of what Obama has accomplished. The Obama administration has also been dismayed by requests from Trump's team for information they fear could be used to try to identify and then eliminate bureaucrats who have worked on Obama priorities like climate change and women's rights overseas.

ACROSS THE NATION

Shoppers flee as North Carolina mall evacuated after fight

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP)—A North Carolina mall has been evacuated after a fight sent a crowd of after-Christmas shoppers fleeing. Fayetteville Police Lt. Todd Joyce says police were called to Cross Creek Mall around 5 p.m. Monday because of a disturbance. He says some teenagers were apparently involved in a fight at the mall. He said officers found no one injured from the altercation. He says there's no evidence shots were fired, even though some witnesses thought they heard a gunshot. Witnesses tell media outlets that there was chaos as hundreds tried to flee the mall Joyce says no arrests have been made, but police are reviewing mall security video to see if charges are warranted. He says emergency medical personnel were called to assist someone who had a medical episode while fleeing.

1 Tenn. inmate still on lam after Christmas Day jail break

NEWPORT, Tenn. (AP)—Authorities in Tennessee say they have recaptured five of the six inmates who broke out of jail on Christmas. The Cocke County Sheriff's Office says six inmates escaped from the jail early Sunday after removing a toilet from the wall and going through a hole behind it that led to the outside of the facility. A statement by the sheriff says that prior plumbing repairs had loosened the concrete holding the toilet and leaking water had rusted the bolts holding it. Cocke County Sheriff Armando Fonest tells WBIR-TV (http://on.wbir.com/2i7btwA) that five of the inmates had been recaptured by Monday night.

Police: Truck rolls away from construction site, kills boy

HILLSBOROUGH, N.C. (AP)—Authorities say a young boy has been killed by an unmanned truck that rolled down a hill after it wasn't properly secured at a construction site. Hillsborough Police Chief Duane Hampton says the 5-year-old boy was playing in the neighborhood when the truck rolled away from the construction site where it was being loaded. The truck rolled through several yards, hit the boy and came to rest after crashing into a house. Hampton says a worker has been arrested.

Winter storm weakens but travel still hazardous in places

CHICAGO (AP)—The fury of the winter storm that swept into the northern Great Plains on Christmas Day was weakening Monday evening, but blowing and drifting snow continued to hamper travel in many areas.

The combination of freezing rain, snow and high winds that forced vast stretches of highways in the Dakotas to be shut down Sunday continued into Monday, and authorities issued no-travel warnings for much of North Dakota.

Meanwhile, in parts of the South, unseasonably warm temperatures were raising the risk of tornadoes and damaging thunderstorms. About 3 million people in parts of Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee could see damaging wind gusts and isolated tornadoes Monday, the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma, said, but no major outbreak was expected.

The National Weather Service's blizzard warning for western and central North Dakota expired Monday afternoon, but the agency warned snow drifts still blocked some roads.

Severe whiteout conditions led to the closure of Minot International Airport, and the facility wasn't expected to reopen until 3 a.m. Tuesday. The airports serving Fargo and Bismarck also listed flight cancellations on their websites.

Interstate 94 remained closed west of Jamestown, North Dakota. Interstate 90, which had been closed for 260 miles between the Wyoming border and Chamberlain, South Dakota, was reopened to traffic Monday.

Winds gusting 40 mph to 50 mph also led to delays and cancellations at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. The storm also has caused power outages in the Dakotas and Nebraska.

The South Dakota Rural Electric Association said roughly 16,400 of its customers were without power Monday evening. In Nebraska, winds gusting up to 70 mph were cited for hundreds of power outages in central and eastern portions of the state Sunday, although by Monday morning, utilities reported that power had been restored to most customers.

High winds knocked out power to thousands of customers in Michigan on Monday.

Consumers Energy spokesman Brian Wheeler told WOOD-TV that more than 20,000 customers in the state were without power Monday evening. Most of the outages occurred between 7 and 8 p.m., he said.

Pollution from dead Ivy League lab mice worries neighborhood

HANOVER, N.H. (AP)—Neighbors of Dartmouth College property where for years the Ivy League school disposed of mice and other small animals used in science experiments say they fear pollution from the site has contaminated their groundwater and they worry the school hasn't been completely up front with them.

The site has contaminated the well water of at least one family, that of Richard and Debbie Higgins, who blame a variety of health problems on it, including rashes, hair and skin loss and dizziness. Even their dogs were not spared, they say, with one urinating blood and another vomiting.

"We have been drinking the water for years and we had no idea, absolutely no idea," Debbie Higgins said.

Few nearby residents even knew the half-acre plot on the college's Rennie Farm was used from the 1960s until 1978 to dump carcasses from "tracer experiments," in which scientists used radioactive compounds to see how things moved through life systems. A nearby site also contained remains of human cadavers and stillborn fetuses used in medical classes.

The obscurity of the fenced site changed in 2011, when Dartmouth chose to clean it up, removing 40 tons of carcasses and soil from scores of unlined pits that were legal at the time they were dug. That led to the discovery of hazardous waste and low-level radioactive materials and eventually evidence that at least one chemical used in the animal experiments, the suspected carcinogen 1,4-dioxane, had leaked into the groundwater.

It was initially found at 50 times the state standard of 3 parts per billion on the site and more recently as high as 600 parts per billion in the ground. The chemical has been linked to eye, nose and throat irritation and, in long-term exposure, to liver and kidney damage, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The 1,4-dioxane was eventually found to have migrated off the site and contaminated the Higginses' well across the street, about 800 feet from the site—at twice the state standard. They learned in September 2015 that their well was polluted, and now depend on bottled water supplied by Dartmouth for cooking and drinking.

The news has rattled the semi-rural neighborhood, sparking anger and fear among dozens of homeowners who worry the plume will reach their own wells and damage their property values. Many contend Dartmouth was too slow to respond once it found the contamination and has been reluctant to provide full details of what was on the site—something the college denies.

Asia

Japanese prime minister lays wreaths at Hawaii cemeteries

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe laid wreaths at various cemeteries and memorials Monday ahead of a visit to the site of the 1941 bombing that plunged the United States into World War II.

Abe landed at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and then headed to National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, where he laid a wreath. He stood for a moment of silence at the cemetery near downtown Honolulu, which is known as Punchbowl.

He later visited a nearby memorial for nine boys and men who died when a U.S. Navy submarine collided with their Japanese fishing vessel in 2001. At the Ehime Maru Memorial, he again laid a wreath and bowed his head.

On Tuesday, he'll be the first Japanese prime minister to visit the memorial that honors sailors and Marines killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Japan's former leader Shigeru Yoshida went to Pearl Harbor six years after the country's World War II surrender, but that was before the USS Arizona Memorial was built. Yoshida arrived at Pearl Harbor in 1951, shortly after requesting a courtesy visit to the office of Adm. Arthur W.R. Radford, commander of the U.S. Pacific fleet. The office overlooked Pearl Harbor, offering a direct view of the attack site.

AP
Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visits the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific to place a wreath at the Honolulu Memorial, Monday, Dec. 26, 2016, in Honolulu.

Two other Japanese prime ministers have also visited Pearl Harbor. Ichiro Hatoyama spent time here in 1956 and Nobusuke Kishi in 1957. The Japanese government confirmed the visits by Hatoyama and Kishi this week after a Japanese language newspaper in Hawaii pointed them out.

The memorial will be closed to the public Tuesday when Abe visits the historic site, joined by U.S. President Barack Obama, who is vacationing in Hawaii with his family.

The importance of the visit may be mostly symbolic for two countries that, in a remarkable transformation, have grown into close allies in the decades since they faced off in brutal conflict. At the same time, it's significant that it took more than 70 years for U.S.-Japanese relations to get to this point.

Abe won't apologize for Japan's attack when he visits, a government spokesman said earlier this month.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said that "the purpose of the upcoming visit is to pay respects for the war dead and not to offer an apology."

The visit comes six months after Obama became the first sitting American president to visit Hiroshima for victims of the U.S. atomic bombing of that city at the end of the same war.

Pearl Harbor survivor Alfred Rodrigues said Monday he welcomes the visit by Japan's top leader to Hawaii.

"I'm glad he's coming to show that we're all peaceful now and you know, we were doing what we were supposed to do and they were doing what they were supposed to do," he told The Associated Press.

Remembering the day of the attack in 1941, Rodrigues said that he had just sat down to have breakfast when the alarm sounded and the word got out, 'Man your battle stations, this is not a drill,' he recalled.

"We all ran out to the armory to get rifles and ammunition and we could see the planes up above with the red circles on the bottom. We knew it was the Japanese planes," Rodrigues said.

Rodrigues says he doesn't think Abe should apologize. "War is war. I mean, they were doing what they were supposed to do and we were doing what we were supposed to do. I have no animosity at all towards them."

Typhoon kills 6, spoils Christmas festivities in Philippines

BATANGAS, Philippines (AP)—A powerful typhoon blew out of the northern Philippines on Monday after killing at least six people and spoiling Christmas in several provinces, where more than 380,000 people abandoned celebrations at home to reach emergency shelters and other safer grounds.

Typhoon Nock-Ten cut power to five entire provinces due to toppled electric posts and trees, dimming Christmas revelries in Asia's largest Catholic nation. More than 300 flights were delayed or re-scheduled and ferries were barred from sailing, stranding more than 12,000 holiday travelers.

Six people died from drowning or by being pinned by fallen trees, poles and a collapsed concrete wall in the provinces of Quezon and Albay, southeast of Manila, after the typhoon made landfall in Catanduanes province Sunday night, officials said.

Many military camps and outposts in Catanduanes and outlying provinces were damaged and some troops were injured, the military said.

Nock-Ten, locally known as Nina, then blew westward across mountainous and island provinces, damaging homes, uprooting trees and knocking down communications.

After weakening on landfall, the typhoon had sustained winds of up to 120 kilometers (74 miles) per hour and gusts of 180 kph (111 mph) when it blew into the South China Sea after battering the congested provinces of Batangas and Cavite, south of Manila, government forecasters said.

A cargo ship with about two dozen crewmen radioed for help as their vessel started to list off Batangas. It later ran aground and turned on its sided in Mabini town, the coast guard said.

The storm was one of the strongest to hit the Philippines since Typhoon Haiyan left more than 7,300 people dead or missing and displaced over 5 million in 2014. But officials in some provinces found it difficult to convince people to abandon their Christmas celebrations and head for the shelters before the storm hit. Some officials said they had to impose forced evacuations.

"Some residents just refused to leave their homes even when I warned them that you can face what amounts to a death penalty," Cedric Daep, a top disaster-response official in Albay, said by phone.

Shopping malls and stores

Statue export ban hits at Pyongyang's soft power, hard cash

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—With somewhere around 4,000 artists and staff, the Mansudae Art Studio, a huge complex of nondescript concrete buildings on a sprawling, walled-off campus with armed guards in the heart of Pyongyang, churns out everything from watercolor tigers to mosaics so large they seem to depict a race from another, taller planet.

But its statues—the really big, bronze, monumental ones on foreign shores—are what appear to have caught the attention of the U.N. Security Council.

In one of the odder items on the list of things North Korea can't export under United Nations' sanctions, statues were explicitly listed for the first time last month when the Security Council approved a raft of punishments in response to Pyongyang's latest nuclear test, which it conducted in September.

To those familiar with the North's exports, the move to ban statue sales wasn't entirely a surprise. It's one of the few things other than coal and natural resources, exports of which were also heavily restricted under the new sanctions, that North Korea can still find a market for abroad.

Moreover, sanctions advocates and proponents of isolating Pyongyang for its nuclear program believe Mansudae, and particularly its export arm, Mansudae Overseas Projects, is being used to quietly maintain, expand or obfuscate the nature of its relations with other countries.

Africa has traditionally been Mansudae's prime export market—it's sold to 17 African countries, ranging from Angola to Zimbabwe.

Pyongyang began exporting statues to Africa in the late 1960s, when a wave of independence movements created a new market of ideologically friendly leaders in search of grand symbols to bolster national identity and claims of political legitimacy. North Korea, looking to expand its diplomatic ties vis a vis rival Seoul, initially provided the works for free. It only started selling them from about 2000.

Business hasn't exactly been booming.

ASIAN BRIEFS

South Korean ruling party splits over impeached president

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Dozens of lawmakers split from South Korea's ruling party Tuesday over the corruption scandal involving impeached President Park Geun-hye in a move that could shape presidential elections that might take place in just months. The 29 anti-Park lawmakers who left the Saenuri Party planned to create a new conservative party that will likely try to lure outgoing United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as its presidential candidate. There's a possibility of more lawmakers leaving Saenuri in coming weeks over rifts with Park loyalists who continue to occupy the party's leadership. Choung Byoung-gug, one of the lawmakers who left Saenuri, accused the loyalists of "neglecting the values of real conservatism" and "shamelessly defending the infringement of constitutional values" as they continued to support the scandal-hit president.

Japan, US set to sign pact to limit US base worker immunity

TOKYO (AP)—Japan and the U.S. have agreed in principle on guidelines for limiting immunity from Japanese prosecution for civilian workers at American military bases, following a murder case this year on a southern Japanese island involving a Marine-turned-contractor, officials said Monday. Since July, the governments have been negotiating several points concerning U.S. civilian contractors at American bases who are subject to protection under the countries' Status of Forces Agreement. Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told a regular news conference that the two sides have agreed on how to define what constitutes a "civilian contractor" at an American base and hope to sign the agreement "during President Barack Obama's term." He did not give further details. The May arrest of the base contractor, accused of raping and murdering a 20-year-old woman, has renewed outrage on Okinawa island, where resentment has been simmering over its heavy U.S. troop presence.

4 Indian men arrested after US tourist accused them of rape

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indian police say they've arrested four men on suspicion of raping an American tourist who came to New Delhi alone earlier this year, in another incident of sexual violence to stir outrage. Police Officer Rakesh Kumar says the suspects—a tour guide and his associate, a car driver and a hotel worker—were arrested Monday. The woman said in her police complaint that the four men raped her after she was drugged in a hotel room in April. They denied the accusations. The woman went back to the U.S. and registered a complaint through an email to New Delhi's police commissioner. She returned to the Indian capital earlier this month to pursue the case. It highlights the persistent violence against women in India despite tougher laws against sexual assault imposed after the 2012 death of a young woman who was gang-raped on a bus in New Delhi.

World

Kremlin plays down terror attack possibility in jet crash

SOCHI, Russia (AP)—The Kremlin on Monday played down the possibility that a terror attack might have downed a Syria-bound Russian plane, killing all 92 people on board, as the nation observed a day of mourning for the victims, including most members of a world famous military choir.

The Tu-154 owned by the Russian Defense Ministry crashed into the Black Sea early Sunday two minutes after taking off in good weather from the city of Sochi. The plane was carrying members of the Alexandrov Ensemble, often referred to as the Red Army Choir, to a New Year's concert at a Russian military base in Syria.

About 3,500 people, 43 ships and 182 divers have been sweeping a vast crash site for bodies of the victims and debris, and dozens of drones and several submersibles also have been involved in the search. Rescue teams so far have recovered 11 bodies and numerous body fragments, which have been flown to Moscow for identification.

Divers have located parts of the plane's fuselage and other fragments, but the search for the jet's flight recorders will likely prove challenging as they lack underwater locator beacons for easy spotting common in more modern planes.

Officials sought to squelch speculation that the crash might have been caused by a bomb planted on board or a portable air defense missile.

But some aviation experts pointed that the crew's failure to communicate any technical problem and a large area over which fragments of the plane were scattered point at a possible explosion on board.

Evidence of a bombing of a Syria-bound military flight would badly embarrass the Kremlin, highlighting Russia's extreme vulnerability to attacks even as it boasts its success in Syria after Aleppo fell into President Bashar Assad's hands.

President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, told reporters that an attack isn't a likely scenario. Transport Minister Maxim Sokolov, who oversaw the rescue efforts, said investigators were looking into a possible technical fault or pilot error as the most likely reasons behind the crash.

AP

In this frame grab provided by the Russian Emergency Ministry Press Service, ministry employees lift a fragment of a plane outside Sochi, Russia, Monday, Dec. 26, 2016.

But some experts remained skeptical, noting that the crew would have reported any technical glitch.

"Possible malfunctions ... certainly wouldn't have prevented the crew from reporting them," Vitaly Andreyev, a former senior Russian air traffic controller, told RIA Novosti, adding that an "external impact" was the most likely reason.

Russia's main domestic security and counter-terrorism agency, the FSB, said it has found "no indications or facts pointing at the possibility of a terror attack or an act of sabotage on board the plane."

The plane departed from the Chkalovsky military airport just outside Moscow and stopped in Sochi for refueling early Sunday. The FSB said border guards and military servicemen were protecting the plane as it sat on the tarmac in Sochi, and the chief pilot along with the flight engineer personally monitored the refueling. The agency said that a border guard officer and a customs official were the only ones to briefly come on board in Sochi.

Colombia probe finds human error, lack of fuel in air crash

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—A series of human errors caused an airliner to run out of fuel and crash in Colombia last month, killing 71 people including most of a Brazilian soccer team, aviation authorities said on Monday.

Colombia's Civil Aeronautics agency concluded in its investigation that the plan for the flight operated by Bolivia-based charter company LaMia did not meet international standards. Among the errors made were the decisions to let the plane take off without enough fuel to make the flight safely and then to not stop midway to refuel. The pilot also did not report the plane's emergency until it was too late, it said.

Neither the company nor Bolivian authorities should have allowed the plane to take off with the flight plan submitted, said Freddy Bonilla, air safety secretary for Colombia's aviation authority. He said the agency's preliminary conclusions were based on the plane's black boxes and other evidence.

Experts had earlier suggested that fuel exhaustion was a likely cause of the Nov. 28 crash that wiped out all but a few members of the Chapocoense soccer team, as well as team officials and journalists accompanying them to a championship playoff match in Medellin, Colombia.

The BAE 146 Avro RJ85 has a maximum range was 2,965 kilometers (1,600 nautical miles)—just under the distance between Medellin and Santa Cruz, Bolivia, where the plane had taken off at almost full capacity.

The plane was in the air for about 4 hours and 20 minutes when air traffic controllers in Medellin put it into a holding pattern because another flight had reported a suspected fuel leak and was given priority.

Investigators found that crew members of the LaMia flight were aware of the lack of fuel but waited too long to report the emergency.

Bonilla said that during the flight the pilot and co-pilot are heard on "various occasions" talking about stopping in Leticia - a city near the borders separating Brazil, Peru and Colombia - to refuel but decided not to do so. When the plane entered Colombian airspace it was flying into a wind, which caused more fuel to be consumed.

And when the pilot asked for priority to land in Medellin, six minutes before crashing, the plane had already spent two minutes with a motor shut off, the investigation concluded. All the motors shut

Assad gains Aleppo, but others likely to shape Syria's fate

BEIRUT (AP)—Under different circumstances, Syrian President Bashar Assad's capture of Aleppo would project an aura of invincibility. He has survived nearly six years of revolt.

Instead, it has underscored his dependence on outside powers.

Turkey, Iran, and Russia have tilted recent events in his favor, and it is those three players—and perhaps the incoming Trump administration—that are now best placed to determine Syria's endgame.

The three nations met in Moscow last week for talks on Syria that pointedly included no Syrians, indicating they prefer to pursue a grand bargain among great powers rather than a domestic settlement between the government and the opposition.

The warming of ties between Russia and Turkey, who back opposing sides of the civil war, may prove to be a game changer, potentially helping to end a conflict that has confounded the world's top diplomats for more than five years.

Their joint efforts on Syria—there is now talk of a nationwide cease-fire—reflect a desire to establish spheres of influence. Turkey might drop its support for rebels fighting Assad in exchange for freedom of movement in a border region where its troops are battling the Islamic State group and trying to curb the advance of U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish forces.

Hassan Hassan, a Syrian analyst at the Washington-based Tahrir Institute, called the Moscow summit "a perfect example of how the Syria solution is now about a grand bargain whereby other countries negotiate on behalf of Syrians."

Syria's army was only able to win the battle of Aleppo with Russian support and the aid of thousands of Iran-backed militiamen from across the region. Turkey struck a deal with Russia to manage the rebels' surrender when they were on the verge of total defeat.

Turkey was an early backer of the rebels, allowing them to retreat and rearm across its largely porous border. But as Syrian Kurdish forces—answerable neither to Assad nor to his opponents—have expanded their canton along the border, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has come to view them as a greater threat than Assad.

Turkey sees the main Syrian Kurdish faction as an extension of the Kurdish insurgency raging in its southwest. It has also grown increasingly concerned about IS following a series of attacks. The Syrian Kurds are battling IS, but Turkey describes both as "terrorists" who must be eliminated.

In August, Turkish troops and allied Syrian forces poured across the border, and in the following weeks they drove IS from its last strongholds along the frontier and halted the Kurdish advance.

Fleeing war, South Sudanese create booming camps in Uganda

BIDI BIDI CAMP, Uganda (AP)—"I don't want to go back," James Issac declared, just minutes after becoming a refugee. "I don't want to die."

For two days, the slender 30-year-old from South Sudan's Equatoria region navigated his way out of civil war, riding a motorcycle along dirt roads and avoiding government soldiers who, according to accounts by refugees to The Associated Press, have taken aim at civilians.

In his last steps on South Sudanese soil, Issac passed a group of rag-tag rebel soldiers and crossed a rickety bridge into Uganda, and safety.

"I am happy," he said, as Ugandan soldiers searched his belongings for contraband. "There (are) no problems here."

He is one of 440,000 refugees who have fled South Sudan's spiraling conflict into Uganda this year alone, creating some of the world's largest refugee camps in just six months' time.

More than one million refugees have fled South Sudan, spilling across borders in East Africa as the international community warns that the conflict and its ethnic violence could destabilize the region.

Since fighting erupted in South Sudan's capital, Juba, in July and left a peace agreement in tatters, the world's youngest country has experienced ethnic cleansing and teeters on the brink of genocide, according to the United Nations.

Those fleeing have turned Uganda's northwest from an empty bushland into a sprawling complex of refugee settlements. The largest, Bidi Bidi, is a pop-up city that holds roughly 260,000 people weary of war. Last week the U.N. announced the Bidi Bidi camp had stopped taking new arrivals because it was full, and it directed South Sudanese to nearby locations.

The refugees "were in critical condition. Bullets remaining in their legs. Others had come with parts amputated. Others were severely bleeding," recalled Rufaaaya Asiyati, a nutrition specialist working at the border crossing for the Ugandan government. Roughly 20 percent of those under 5 years old are severely malnourished, she said. Most of the refugees are women and children.

When the refugees arrive in settlements set up by the U.N, some like 18-year-old Harriet Guo are alone and must fend for themselves. The refugees are given supplies to build shelters and must set them up themselves.

Like others in the camp, Guo tells stories of brutal violence that forced her to flee South Sudan.

"There is war there, and here there is peace," she said.

Many of the refugees come from Yei, where the AP visited in November and heard stories of government soldiers killing, raping and arresting civilians based on their ethnicity. Some civilians also said that rebel soldiers would take money or phones from people fleeing to Uganda.

Good Housekeeping

Diggin' In: Sourwood, a delight in any season

Sourwood's fall colors. TNS

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)

Sourwood is a tree for all seasons, rewarding you with year-round beauty, according to native plant enthusiast Helen Hamilton of Williamsburg, Va.

In spring, the tree is covered with lacy white fronds of flowers. In fall, the leaves turn a brilliant red.

In summer, the flowers look like little urns, suggesting its other name, "lily of the valley tree." In fall, the fingers of white flowers become clusters of creamy fruits that are very attractive against the background of red leaves that persist into winter.

"I love the lovely long curved fingers of white fruits that are seen most of the winter on the bent trunks," says Hamilton, past president of the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society, and retired biology teacher. Learn more about the native plant society and chapter at www.vnps.org and www.vnps.org/johnclayton.

Sourwood, or Oxydendrum arboretum, is a member of the heath family. Many members of the heath family have small, white, bell-like flowers that are clustered mostly at ends of twigs, according to Hamilton. Sourwood is the only full-size tree in the heath family with flowers and fruits of the heath type. The sour-tasting leaves are narrow to egg-shaped with a line of hairs on the midvein on the underside.

"Sourwood is also known as Sorrel-tree since the leaves have a taste similar to that of sheep sorrel (Rumex acetosella) or wood sorrel (Oxalis spp)," Hamilton says.

Cold hardy in Zones 5-9, sourwood prefers full to part sun in slightly acidic, moist, well-drained soils, but does well in dry soil. However, the root system is shallow, and it does not transplant well. Sourwood tree trunks do not stand straight and tall, they always lean away from the vertical. When the leaves are gone, these leaning trunks are good identification for sourwood.

This mid-sized tree — 20-30 feet tall — ranges from New Jersey south to Florida and Louisiana, growing in rich woods. It is found in all counties across Virginia except for those in northern Virginia, and is widely cultivated as an ornamental.

"With no major pests or diseases, this native tree is worth considering as a landscape element," Hamilton says.

"The flowers attract bees and butterflies, and produce seeds for birds. Sourwood honey can be found in local food outlets. The genus name comes from the Greek "oxys"for "sour" and "Dendron" meaning "tree," referring to the leaves that have a sour taste.

Yellow garden spider. TNS

SPIDERS, SPIDERS, SPIDERS

Native plant and beneficial insect articles often profile the liked and familiar — butterflies, ants, bees, beetles, and flies, describing how they fit into the home garden and the ecosystem in general.

Spiders should be counted among those. They are fascinating, beneficial and amazing creatures.

"Shining a light into the woods at night will reveal lots of tiny sparkling lights — reflections from the eyes of spiders, according to Dorothy Geyer, natural resource specialist at Colonial National Historic Park in Yorktown and Jamestown," says Hamilton.

"Individual spiders can be found by following the reflected light from a headlamp or flashlight."

Insects are grouped into the Class Insecta in the Phylum Arthropoda which includes other classes, one of which is the Class Arachnida with 9 listed orders of scorpions and spiders, and one Subclass, the mites and ticks, according to Hamilton.

Wolf Spider. TNS

Running Crab Spider. TNS

The vast majority of arachnids are harmless to humans, with few exceptions. Some mites and ticks can cause disease and allergic reactions, and the bite of the Black Widow Spider and the Brown Recluse can be damaging, but encounters with humans are rare, especially if good housekeeping practices are followed. All spiders can bite, but only if they are harassed. Most spider bites are harmless, but may cause allergic reactions that can be mild to severe.

"Most spiders are predatory, controlling insect populations, with interesting hunting and capturing methods," says Hamilton.

"Many spiders are camouflaged to match the flower or leaf where they are hiding, or dark colored to match the environment. Some can change body colors from white or yellow or green."

Spiders have jaws with fangs that they use to hold prey items, inject venom and eat. Bolas spiders hunt at night, hanging under a leaf and holding a strand of silk with glue on the tip. When an insect approaches, the spider swings the bolas, capturing the prey with the sticky tip. Further, bolas spiders can emit several types of pheromones to lure male moths that end up as food rather than as mating partner with an appropriate female moth.

Crab spiders are named for the way they walk sideways, like a crab, and many species have exceptionally long front legs that they hold in front, matching the posture of crabs.

Orb-weaving spiders make the familiar circular webs seen in gardens, forests, and meadows. Spiders use these webs to capture prey items, and usually eat the webs each day, rebuilding them the next morning.

The Black and Yellow Garden Spider spins the classic round web, usually decorated with a zigzag band of silk. No one knows why the spider constructs such an elaborate part of the circular web — it could be to attract prey, provide stability, or prevent birds from flying into the web. The female of this species and the Carolina Wolf Spider are very large, 3-4 inches long. Wolf spiders are brown-gray, somewhat hairy and move very fast but are not aggressive. They live in burrows in open fields, and are sometimes kept as pets.

"Many spiders overwinter as eggs in a silk cocoon, hatching in the spring, but others can survive the cold under leaf litter," says Hamilton.

"The fluid in the body of a spider contains chemicals (that) can act like antifreeze, and many species can survive very low temperatures, especially if insulated from the cold under a blanket of snow."

To Her New Home In Paradise

Antonia Pangelinan Mafnas Apatang

Lovingly known as
"Tonie" or "Tonka"

Born to life on November 7, 1950, she walked the path to her new home to begin her new life in God's Paradise on December 12, 2016. At Heaven's gate she will be welcomed and reunited with her father ***Juan Rios Mafnas;*** her stepfather ***Jose A. Concepcion;*** her brothers and sister, ***Jesus P., Jose P., and Maria P. Mafnas;*** her parents-in-law ***Gregorio P. and Rosa M. Castro,*** together with other family members who are at peaceful rest in Paradise.

A life fulfilled, ***Tonie*** lived a joyful, happy life, always with the beauty of a smile on her face and was a person so kind, caring, supportive, understanding and very loving. Her dedication, commitment, and especially her love as a wife to her husband ***David Mundo Apatang***, and as a mother to her children and grandchildren, ***Elaine Apatang-Butts/Frederick (Chloe); Velma Paulette Lore (John Anthony, Justin); Victoria Ann Apatang/Sidney Camacho (John David, Donovan, Jacoby, Alaina Elizabeth); Deyna Rose Apatang Sunderland/Tim (Tim, Allissa, Andrew Bailey, Lana Antonia); David John Apatang (Lucio Keikoa, Charles Pablo, David John Jr.); David Peter Apatang; Kimberly A. Acebo/Ruben (Jacqueline A. Rogers and family; Kevin, Kelly Acebo)*** will forever be instilled in their hearts as she had taught them well.

Loving memories of ***Tonie,*** will live on in the hearts of her mother, ***Victoria Pangelinan Mafnas Concepcion;*** her siblings, in-laws and their families, ***Theresita P. Mafnas and children; Antonio P./Cynthia C. Mafnas and children; Susana T. Mafnas (†Jesus) and children; Marian DLG. Tudela (†Jose) and children; Liberty L. Mafnas (†Jose) and children; Primitiva A. Babauta and children; Edith A./Antonio Ayuyu and children; Joseph M./Julie Castro and children; Rodrigo M./Pang Castro and children; Tomasa C./Joe Tenorio and children.***

Tonie's intelligent conversations, her laughter, her generosity and friendship will not only be in the hearts of her family and loved ones, but will be instilled in the hearts of her numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, classmates, former co-workers, and numerous friends.

Tonie will be returning home on Friday, December 23rd, 2016. In her memory, masses of intention are offered daily at 6:00 p.m. at San Antonio Church. ***Tonie*** will be with us for the last time on ***Thursday, December 29, 2016 and her funeral cortege will proceed from Borja Funeral Home at 8:00 a.m. to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso and rosary follows immediately. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed immediately with burial at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.***

Your prayers, thoughts, and presence are sincerely appreciated.

Mayor David M. Apatang, children and grandchildren
Victoria Pangelinan Mafnas Concepcion
Pangelinan, Mafnas & Apatang Families

Life & Style

Fans mourn pop's George Michael as charities reveal his work

LONDON (AP)—Grieving fans on Monday mourned the death of George Michael as British charities revealed that the pop star had secretly been a major behind-the-scenes donor who gave his time and money to support cherished causes.

The man with the reputation for self-indulgence had actually given millions of pounds (dollars) to charities involved with helping children, cancer victims and AIDS sufferers.

He was also remembered for small acts of kindness: helping his village in north London get a Christmas tree, and volunteering at a homeless shelter.

Former Beatle Paul McCartney posted a statement on his website praising Michael's "sweet soul music," which he said will live on.

"Having worked with him on a number of occasions his great talent always shone through and his self-deprecating sense of humor made the experience even more pleasurable," McCartney said, posting a picture of the two of them together.

The singer's death was announced late Sunday. Many paid tribute on Facebook and Twitter and others cited years of good works that received little publicity—largely because Michael insisted on keeping his charity work out of the limelight.

Fans leave tributes outside the home of British musician George Michael in London, Monday, Dec. 26, 2016. AP

Fans placed flowers and other tributes at his homes in north London and in Goring, England, where he died of apparent heart failure.

Michael's later years were marked by occasional brushes with the law and a series of driving incidents related to substance abuse, but this was overlooked Monday as directors of major charities and advocacy groups stepped forward to praise him.

Among the groups he supported were the Terrence Higgins Trust, which helps people with AIDS, Macmillan Cancer Support, and Childline, which offers confidential phone counseling for young people.

Childline founder Esther Rantzen said Michael gave royalties from his 1996 hit "Jesus To A Child" to the charity along with many other donations.

"Over the years he gave us millions and we were planning next year, as part of our 30th anniversary celebrations to create, we hoped, a big concert in tribute to him—to his artistry, to his wonderful musicality but also to thank him for the hundreds of thousands of children he helped," she said.

She said Michael was determined that no one outside the charity should know "how much he gave to the nation's most vulnerable children."

Jane Barron from the Terrence Higgins Trust said Michael made many donations and gifts, including the royalties of his "Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me" duet with Elton John in 1991.

Michael had spoken publicly about the pain of losing a partner to AIDS early in the epidemic, but he kept his long history of donations to the Trust private.

Rights activist Peter Tatchell, who knew Michael before he achieved fame, said Michael had hidden his homosexuality in the early part of his career because gay public figures were subjected to vicious treatment by the British tabloid press.

He praised the singer for making his sexual orientation known after he was arrested in 1998 for lewd behavior in a public toilet in Los Angeles.

Tatchell said Michael's response to his arrest amounted to "a defiant defense of the right to be gay" that had an impact throughout the gay community.

Scholars fret about fate of 'holy grail' German abbey books

ALTOMUENSTER, Germany (AP)—It was filthy, cramped and in major disarray, but when art historian Eva Lindqvist Sandgren entered the library in Altomuenster Abbey, off-limits to all but the German monastery's nuns for more than five centuries, she immediately knew she was looking at a major treasure.

The dusty shelves held at least 500 books, by her estimate, including precious illuminated manuscripts from the 16th century, chants used by the uniquely women-led Bridgettine Order and processionals bursting with colorful religious and ornamental decoration in their margins.

Unlike most Bridgettine libraries, the tomes had survived the Protestant Reformation, the 30 Years War and Germany's "secularization," when the state took most church property. It represents the most complete collection of the order known today.

"I had entered a time capsule," said Lindqvist Sandgren, a senior lecturer at Sweden's Uppsala University.

Surprised by the spontaneous decision by Altomuenster's last remaining nun, Sister Apollonia Buchinger, to open the library, 20 scholars including Sandgren made plans to return and meticulously catalog the remarkable collection. But before they could, the Vatican ordered the abbey in the Bavarian town of 7,500 closed and locked up the library, which also contains some 2,300 statues, paintings and other works of art.

If plans go ahead to close it down, all of the abbey's property—the books, the artworks, the city block-sized abbey and the acres of forests and fields that make up the monastery grounds—would be turned over to the dioceses of Munich and Freising.

Altomuenster is the end of a subway line from Munich, one of Germany's most expensive cities, and its land alone is thought to be worth tens of millions of euros (dollars)—assets that Sister Apollonia thinks the dioceses are eager to get their hands on.

Since 1496, the former Benedictine abbey in Altomuenster has housed a female religious order founded by Saint Bridget in Sweden in the 14th century. It is one of three monasteries of the original branch of the scholarly, monastic order operating today. But with its numbers in decline, Sister Apollonia now lives there alone. The Vatican requires at least three nuns to train novices to become nuns, prompting the decision to shut the abbey down.

In this Oct. 29, 2015 photo Sister Apollonia poses for a photograph with old books in the abbey in Altomuenster, southern Germany.

The Franciscan nun the Vatican put in charge of the abbey's closure, Sister Gabriele Konrad, says the library's collection is just being kept safe but she's refused to grant the scholars or anyone else access to the books.

"The value of the library is the ensemble, because it's never been taken apart," said Corine Schlief, an art historian at Arizona State University who visited the library with Sandgren. "If this should be taken apart and divided up between books that collectors would give tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars for and those only of interest to scholars, it would lose a lot of its value."

Schlief, Sandgren and other academics have written an open letter to the Vatican, Sister Gabriele and the Munich dioceses urging that the library be kept together and made available to the public and offering to catalog it.

Sister Gabriele and the Munich dioceses insist there is no plan to sell the books, and that their experts are perfectly qualified to handle them. Munich-Freising Vicar General Msgr. Peter Beer dismissed speculation of any land-and-treasures grab by the dioceses.

"There's a false impression that we're taking in riches and gems and gold and everything imaginable—that's nonsense," he told the AP at his office in Munich. "We are taking on costs more than anything."

His office also downplayed the library's potential value or historical significance, telling the AP it includes "a large number of antiphonaries from the 18th century, most in very used and some in damaged condition," and that six antiphonaries—books containing religious chants—from the Middle Ages have "already been studied by scholars."

That's made the group of scholars who wrote the open letter and others even more suspicious. From the hundreds of photographs they took, they know there's much more—including an illuminated manuscript from the 1500s in Belgium, which might be expected to fetch 100,000 euros ($105,000) or more if sold to a private collector, said Schier.

Volker Schier, another expert from Arizona State University, noted that even financially insignificant books are historically important. Ledgers, cookbooks and even antiphonaries help tell how the nuns lived over the centuries.

'Rogue One' dominate holiday box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It was an intergalactic holiday at movie theaters as "Rogue One" blasted past a spate of new releases to hold onto the top spot at the weekend box office.

The "Star Wars" story added another $96 million to its coffers over the four-day holiday period, according to studio estimates Monday.

"The power of the 'Star Wars' brand made it the odds-on favorite to be the No. 1 film on Christmas weekend despite a massive amount of competition," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker comScore.

That left the weekend's many new releases in a race for second place. The animated animal musical "Sing" claimed that spot, debuting to $56 million. The Jennifer Lawrence-Chris Pratt space tale "Passengers" opened in third place with $23.1 million, followed by the R-rated comedy "Why Him?" with $16.7 million. The video-game adaptation "Assassin's Creed" debuted in fifth place with $15 million.

"Star Wars" also dominated the holiday box office last year with "The Force Awakens."

"Mid-December is kind of a magic time to release a big franchise film," Dergarabedian said, noting that the top-grossing films of all time, "Avatar" and "Titanic," also opened in mid-December.

Half a dozen other films either opened or expanded over the holiday weekend. Denzel Washington's adaptation of August Wilson's "Fences" expanded on Sunday, earning $11.37 million over the four-day weekend, good for sixth place.

While still in limited release, the celebrated musical "La La Land" opened in 534 additional theaters and finished the weekend in eighth place.

Also opening over the long holiday weekend: Pedro Almodovar's "Julieta," Martin Scorsese's "Silence," J.A. Bayona's dark fantasy "A Monster Calls," Ben Affleck's "Live By Night" and the NASA drama "Hidden Figures."

"There were so many cinematic presents under the Christmas tree, it was hard to keep track," Dergarabedian said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Monday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Monday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Tuesday.

AP

This image released by Lucasfilm Ltd. shows Felicity Jones as Jyn Erso in a scene from, "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story."

1. **"Rogue One: A Star Wars Story,"** $96.1 million ($47.1 million international).
2. **"Sing,"** $56.1 million ($27 million international).
3. **"Passengers,"** $23.1 million.
4. **"Why Him?"** $16.7 million ($2.2 million international).
5. **"Assassin's Creed,"** $15 million ($13.3 million international).
6. **"Fences,"** $11.4 million.
7. **"Moana,"** $10.4 million ($14.9 million international).
8. **"La La Land,"** $9.7 million ($4.3 million international).
9. **"Office Christmas Party,"** $7.3 million ($3 million international).
10. **"Collateral Beauty,"** $7.1 million ($3.6 million international).

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Sweden's German-born queen hospitalized for dizziness

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)— Sweden's popular German-born Queen Silvia has been hospitalized on her 73rd birthday because of dizziness. The Swedish royal household says Silvia was kept overnight for observation and "is doing well." In a statement, the palace said Saturday she was admitted to Stockholm's Karolinska Institute hospital late Friday "after feeling dizzy." It added the mother of Crown Princess Victoria— heir to the throne— Prince Carl Philip and Princess Madeleine, had been struggling with a cold "for some time." Born Silvia Renate Sommerlath in Heidelberg, Germany, she met Crown Prince Carl Gustaf— who later became King Carl XVI Gustaf— at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich. The pair wed in 1976.

Queen's granddaughter Zara Tindall suffers miscarriage

LONDON (AP)— Officials say Queen Elizabeth II's granddaughter, Zara Tindall, has suffered a miscarriage. She and her husband, retired rugby player Mike Tindall, had been expecting their second child. The pregnancy was announced last month. A spokeswoman for the couple said Saturday the couple have "lost their baby" and asked for privacy during a difficult time. Zara Tindall was a champion equestrian using her maiden name Zara Phillips. She switched to her married name this year. The couple have a 2-year-old daughter, Mia. The baby had been expected in late spring.

Love of sewing patterns leads to world-class collection

SOUTH KINGSTOWN, R.I. (AP)—If a costume designer wanted to recreate a World War I era wraparound dress, a 1940s zoot suit or even a bodice from 1875, the sewing patterns are in Rhode Island.

The University of Rhode Island has the largest known collection of sewing patterns in the world, according to the collection's curator, Joy Spanabel Emery, and the United States Institute for Theatre Technology.

About 50,000 are on paper and 62,000 are in an electronic database. They're at the university because of Emery's love of patterns.

Emery donated her personal collection of patterns and periodicals to the university years ago and has painstakingly sorted through the donations sent there as word spread about the growing repository. Three more boxes full just arrived to be added to the overflowing filing cabinets.

"This is much more than a hobby. It really is a passion," said Emery, a professor emerita of theater at URI. "I'm learning things every day about pattern companies and the different styles and I enjoy creating something that's a legacy."

As a costume designer, Emery began saving paper patterns in the 1980s because everyday clothes often aren't preserved over time. Notable pieces like military uniforms and wedding dresses tend to be saved. And, she worried electronic versions of the patterns could be lost as technology changed.

The association for performing arts and entertainment professionals, USITT, honored Emery this year for documenting the clothing of American history. The 80-year-old Emery received a distinguished achievement award in costume design and technology, the only one given this year in that category.

Costume designers can replicate period clothing and the public can understand how middle-class Americans dressed over time because of Emery, said executive director David Grindle.

Wife married to old swinger would like to push him out

DEAR ABBY: I am a 70-year-old woman, married for 50 years, and I hate my husband. He wants to go to swinger parties and toss me to other men. I tried it a couple of times for him and hated it.

He is overbearing and rude. We don't have any friends where we live, so he seeks out new people. He doesn't listen to my begging not to do this. His computer is full of porn and his thoughts are sinful, although he can't perform.

Every day I wish he were dead, but I feel guilty for these thoughts. Please tell me what to do. My life is unbearable.

PAST MY LIMIT IN ORLANDO

DEAR PAST YOUR LIMIT: By now it should be apparent to you that you can't change your husband. The only thing you can change is yourself. If you find the strength to do that, your circumstances will change. Because you say your life is unbearable, stop bearing it. Talk to a lawyer and set yourself free.

DEAR ABBY: My 33-year-old son has mental problems. He is moving out to live with a guy he has been talking to on the internet and who has met him once.

His father and I are against it, not because of their homosexuality but because we are afraid it's a dangerous situation. We have learned that the guy was arrested three years ago on three different charges. He says he was cleared, but refuses any background checks or fingerprinting for jobs and/or government housing.

When we tried to talk to our son and explain the dangers, he became irate and blamed everything on us. He has no driver's license and has threatened to take off. He has also threatened suicide. We have asked him to consider talking to a psychiatrist, but he refuses. He does see a psychologist every three months, and he's supposed to be on medication, which he refuses to take. How can we deal with this? His psychologist won't talk to us unless my son gives the OK.

DESPERATE WORRIED MOTHER

DEAR DESPERATE: Because your son is an adult, unless he is a danger to himself or others, there is nothing you can do to prevent him from leaving. However, you CAN write his psychologist a letter letting him/her know what is going on and address your concerns. There is a chance your son might pay more attention to what his therapist says than to you.

An organization that may be of help to you is The National Alliance on Mental Illness, accessible at nami.org. It may be able to provide you with the guidance and emotional support you need.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 16, and I have a crush on a guy who is 23. We met in the gym he works at. He's very shy and he didn't make the first move, but now we flirt a lot. I don't know what to think because we met at his work, and he's so much older than I am. What do you think about the situation? If he kisses me, what should I think? If he doesn't make a move, what should I do?

CONFUSED IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR CONFUSED: My advice is to forget about it. If he kisses you, consider the consequences if your parents found out what's been going on. It could cost this man his job. He may be very nice, but he is so much older and more experienced than you are that there could be criminal penalties and possibly jail time for him if he's foolish enough to pursue you.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

OOH, YOU LOOK COLD, CALVIN! THERE'S A FIRE MADE. WHY DON'T YOU GO WARM UP?
OH BOY!
NOTHING BEATS SITTING BY A ROARING FIRE AFTER YOU'VE BEEN OUT IN THE COLD.
OF COURSE, SOME PEOPLE SAY WHY BOTHER GOING OUTSIDE FIRST?
12-28
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WOW. THEY KEEP UPPING OUR PROJECTED SNOWFALL TOTALS.
I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE GOING ANYWHERE FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS.
OH! THIS WOULD BE THE PERFECT TIME FOR THAT PROJECT I KEEP TALKING ABOUT!
A "THREE STOOGES" MARATHON IS NOT A "PROJECT," ADAM.
WHAT ABOUT "LITTLE RASCALS"?
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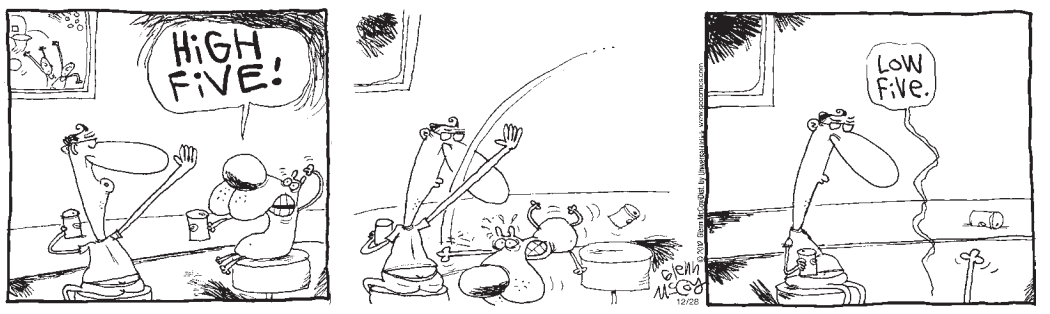
www.gocomics.com
12·28

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

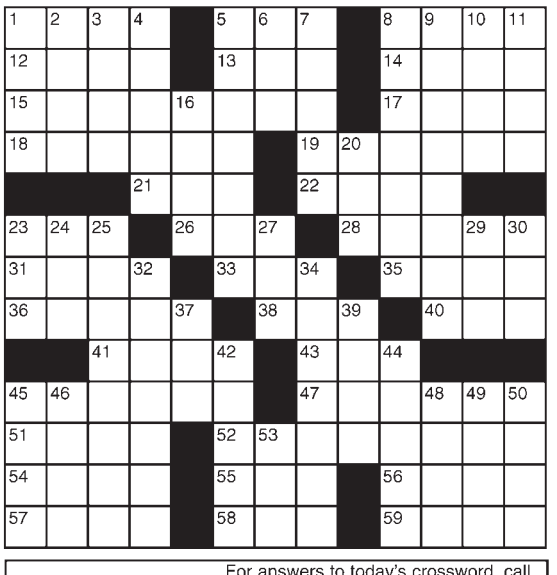
ACROSS
1 Eric of "Troy"
5 Bro's kin
8 Gush
12 "Zounds!"
13 Pen filler
14 Job for Holmes
15 California city
17 "Sad to say ..."
18 "The Hobbit" baddies
19 No-holds-barred
21 Ballpark fig.
22 Chorus syllables
23 Cardinal cap letters
26 Contented sound
28 Barbie and Ken
31 Milne bruin
33 Dine
35 School orgs.
36 Man of morals?
38 Abysmal
40 Choose
41 Sudden wind
43 Ewe's mate
45 Sports venues
47 Ill will
51 New York's — Field
52 California city
54 Shortly
55 Swelled head
56 Lays down the lawn
57 He loved Lucy
58 N.J. neighbor
59 Pairs

DOWN
1 Optimum
2 Petri dish gel
3 iPod model
4 Confuse
5 Naps
6 Gerund suffix
7 Toaster's word
8 Edible mollusk
9 California city
10 Jacob's brother
11 Compass point
16 "Casablanca" role
20 Young bloke
23 Hot tub
24 Water tester
25 California city
27 Center
29 Napkin's place
30 Bygone jet
32 Famed escape artist
34 Sunshade
37 Omega preceder
39 Comic Carvey
42 Recorded
44 Central part
45 Large amount
46 Fork part
48 Cat call
49 Nullify
50 Lip
53 Get older

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	L	A	B	■	L	U	V	■	B	R	A	E
A	O	N	E	■	O	B	I	■	R	E	F	S
S	C	O	T	F	R	E	E	■	E	A	R	P
S	O	N	■	O	A	R	■	A	A	R	O	N
■	■	■	S	A	X	■	A	R	K	■	■	■
U	H	A	U	L	■	P	I	T	F	A	L	L
S	A	N	G	■	S	O	D	■	R	O	T	E
C	H	I	A	N	T	I	■	W	E	L	D	S
■	■	■	R	A	Y	■	P	O	E	■	■	■
H	U	F	F	Y	■	D	E	N	■	A	D	Z
I	G	O	R	■	R	I	S	K	F	R	E	E
S	L	O	E	■	A	N	T	■	D	E	L	A
S	I	T	E	■	G	O	O	■	R	A	I	L

Yesterday's answer 12-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sienna Miller, 35; Denzel Washington, 62; Edgar Winter, 70; Dame Maggie Smith, 82.

Happy Birthday: Rely on your knowledge and experience when faced with decisions. Uncertainty can hold you back if you can't deduce what's fact and what's fiction. Speak up, ask questions and find out exactly what you need to know to put your mind at ease. Protect what you have. Make choices that won't jeopardize your position or your future. Your numbers are 1, 6, 15, 26, 33, 39, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Quiet pursuits will bring the highest return. A secret is best not discussed with anyone until you are sure you know how to handle the outcome. Look for opportunities to do something that doubles your confidence. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Check over financial, legal or medical papers and update anything that you may have overlooked or thought someone else was responsible for. A day trip or volunteering for a worthy cause will result in a connection to someone you find enlightening. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take a close look at your money situation and how much you owe. Cut your personal overhead and make a point to collect money that's owed to you. An insightful suggestion will pay off. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Your insight will be spot-on when dealing with emotional situations. Read between the lines and you will pick up on the possibilities that are within reach. Use your intelligence and intuition when faced with difficult situations. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't make a decision that will disrupt your source of income. Refuse to let the changes going on around you lead to regret. Concentrate on home, family and the ones you love, not what is happening at work or with your peers. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Things are looking up and pending situations can be dealt with properly. You'll recognize what is best for you and will be able to manipulate whatever situation you face. A personal change will be liberating. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): As long as you live within your means, you will be OK. Too much of anything will drag you down. Look for ways to improve your appearance, attitude and your relationships with the people who mean the most to you. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Use your knowledge and experience to get what you want. Working from home will help you get ahead and accomplish domestic goals as well. Don't let secrecy lead to an outburst. Trust your instincts and react appropriately. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You can push for change if you do so with diplomacy. Opportunities will unfold through someone who understands your position and what you have to offer. A romantic relationship will flourish if you offer truth and commitment. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't get into a dispute if someone doesn't want to do what you are doing. Head out in your own direction or make arrangements to spend time with someone who shares your interests. Multiple options are available, so do your own thing. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let anger take over when passion should be your goal. Get involved in the causes you believe in with the intention of making a difference. A personal change will turn out better than anticipated. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Size up what is going on around you and react. Getting to the bottom of something that is irking you will help you move forward. A romantic relationship will take on a new direction if you discuss your concerns and dreams. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have drive, imagination and enthusiasm. You are inventive and appealing.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				5				
			1		7			
		9				8		
	7						1	
2				1				5
6			2	9	4			7
	5	8		6		9	2	
				7				
			4	8	9			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	7	6	4	2	9	1	5	3
9	3	5	8	1	7	4	2	6
4	2	1	3	6	5	7	9	8
6	9	3	1	5	8	2	7	4
5	8	2	7	9	4	6	3	1
1	4	7	2	3	6	5	8	9
3	1	4	5	8	2	9	6	7
2	6	8	9	7	1	3	4	5
7	5	9	6	4	3	8	1	2

Difficulty Level ★★ 12/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DESIGNING AN APP **Solution: 8 letters**

E	A	C	S	P	O	R	T	T	A	B	L	E	T	R
V	N	A	I	N	T	E	R	F	A	C	E	S	E	E
I	D	T	P	P	M	A	E	E	R	O	T	S	C	H
T	R	E	R	P	V	E	N	E	W	S	O	E	H	T
C	O	G	V	E	L	S	D	N	A	L	P	N	N	A
A	I	O	L	E	P	I	S	I	V	L	O	T	O	E
R	D	R	R	A	L	R	C	E	C	T	G	I	L	W
E	E	Y	S	E	F	O	E	A	N	A	O	F	O	I
T	S	E	K	G	M	R	P	N	T	I	L	O	G	N
N	K	M	S	R	A	U	E	E	E	I	S	S	Y	D
I	T	A	A	W	C	M	S	N	R	U	O	U	M	O
D	O	R	Ⓣ	Ⓘ	Ⓜ	Ⓔ	E	N	I	T	R	N	B	W
E	P	F	S	B	O	O	K	S	O	L	L	E	S	S
A	O	U	D	I	R	B	Y	H	H	C	N	U	A	L
S	M	E	L	B	O	R	P	A	I	D	C	O	D	E

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Yesterday's Answer: Specialist

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 24 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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- Operate front desk to include greeting guests, performing guest transactions, operating the front office system, answering the phone and ordering front desk supplies.
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- Handle the responsibilities of managing the guest relation activities of the hotel.
- Responds as well as solves different complaints of guests.
- Inform Front Office Manager/ Director of Rooms of all safety and security concerns of property, guests and associates, including OSHA, General Liability and Workers' Compensation cases.
- Maximizing the sales by providing the guests with additional information regarding its products and services and to make sure that the guests are satisfied.
- Ensure high levels of quality and service in front desk area.
- Perform all other related duties and special projects as requested and/or assigned.

Qualifications/Required Skills:
- High School Diploma or equivalent.
- Highly prefer 2 years experience in front office in a supervisory capacity and preferably from a full service hotel/resort.
- Must be able to supervise and coordinate the activities of guest relations workers to ensure that guests on vacation or business travel have a pleasant experience, while also ensuring the establishment is run efficiently and profitably.
- Must be proficient in computer software applications.
- Strong customer service and time management skills are essential.
- Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.
- Ability to stand and move throughout the front office continuously to perform essential job functions.

Interested applicants may send their resumes to fiesta_hr@fiestasaipan.com.
To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than December 30, 2016.
Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
FAX: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROMEO C. VILLA
Petitioner,
Versus
EVA ALQUEZA VILLA
Respondent.

FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0589

SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Ilmwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitinoer's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:
Dated this 6th day of December, 2016.

/s/ **Deputy of Court**
Superior Court

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: **December 16, 2016** Closing Date: **December 30, 2016**

The Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission") announces a Job Vacancy for immediate recruitment for the following position:

	POSITION	DIVISION	SALARY RANGE	ANNOUNCEMENT NO.
1.	**ENFORCEMENT AGENT II**	Enforcement & Investigations	$27,000 - $32,000	CCC-2017-A
2.	**PERMIT & LICENSING CLERK**	Permit & Licensing	$15,000 - $19,800	CCC-2017-B
3.	**TECHNICAL COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST**	Compliance Division	$37,000 - $42,000	CCC-2017-C
4.	**COMPLIANCE AGENT**	Compliance Division	$32,000 - $37,000	CCC-2017-D
5.	**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER –** Procurement Officer	Executive Office	$30,000 - $35,000	CCC-2017-E

- **Salary:** Actual salary level will depend on the applicant's education, experience, and other related qualifications.
- **Location:** Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI").
- **Benefits:** Basic CNMI government employment fringe benefits.
- **Exempted Positions:** This position is exempted from the CNMI Civil Service system per P.L. 18-56 & P.L. 19-24.

Requirements:

A. CNMI Government **Application for Employment** (OPM-03) - Original
B. Resume with accompanying educational and professional credentials & documentations
C. Police Clearance (within the last 3 months)
D. Copy of your Driver's License or other form of **Valid Identification with photo**

Education and training claimed under items 24 (A) through (H) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma, or certificate. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is an equal employment opportunity employer. The CCC's EEO policy is to ensure that all employment decisions are made on a non-discriminatory basis, and without regard to sex, race, color, age, national origin, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation or belief, or any other status protected by applicable national, federal, state or local law. Please be informed that prior to a job offer, you are required to undergo a pre-employment drug test pursuant to the Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace Policy, Part V.C. of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations. The Casino Commission may also require additional criminal background checks and investigations if deemed necessary.

Application Forms can be picked up at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). For information on the **POSITION DESCRIPTION** and other requirements, please contact the HR Officer, Ms. Juanette LG. Sablan at 233-1857/58 or at **info@cnmicasinocommission.com.** Interested persons should submit their Employment Application Forms along with supporting documents to the **Commonwealth Casino Commission's Office at Springs Plaza (Unit #13 & #14), Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950.**

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Lions' playoff hopes on hold after 42-21 loss to Cowboys

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Matthew Stafford lost to his hometown team again, and the playoff plans are on hold for the Detroit Lions.

Dez Bryant threw his first career touchdown pass between a pair of scoring catches, Ezekiel Elliott ran for two TDs and the Dallas Cowboys kept the Lions from clinching a postseason spot with a 42-21 win Monday night.

Despite a second straight loss following five consecutive victories, Detroit (9-6) still controls its postseason fate. The Lions will be at home against Green Bay (9-6) with the NFC North title at stake in the finale Sunday.

"It's a one-game season," Stafford said. "If you told me in Week 17 we would have a game at our place and got a chance to win the division, I'd take it all day."

Stafford, a championship-winning high school quarterback in the Dallas area, had a 1-yard scoring plunge , but was sacked four times—matching a season high—almost two years after losing a wild-card game at the Cowboys.

He was 26 of 46 for 260 yards, including an interception that set up Elliott's 1-yard touchdown early in the third quarter to break a 21-all halftime tie.

With home-field advantage already wrapped up, the Cowboys (13-2) didn't let up in their seventh straight home win while matching their franchise record in victories, reached two other times.

"There's just one way to play," coach Jason Garrett said. "You can't put different meaning on different competition, like all of a sudden this is less important than that. That's not how we operate."

The biggest sign they were serious about this one came late in the third quarter, when Bryant took a reverse pitch from Dak Prescott and tucked the ball as if planning to run before pulling up and tossing a lefty lob to Jason Witten for an easy 10-yard score and a 35-21 lead.

Witten, the normally stoic 14th-year tight end, flashed Bryant's celebratory "X" and was soon mirrored by the often-exuberant receiver.

"We've been working on that about five or six weeks, maybe a little longer," Bryant said. "You know how you practice plays and sometimes you don't run them? I did not think we were going to call that play. And we did, and we made it happen."

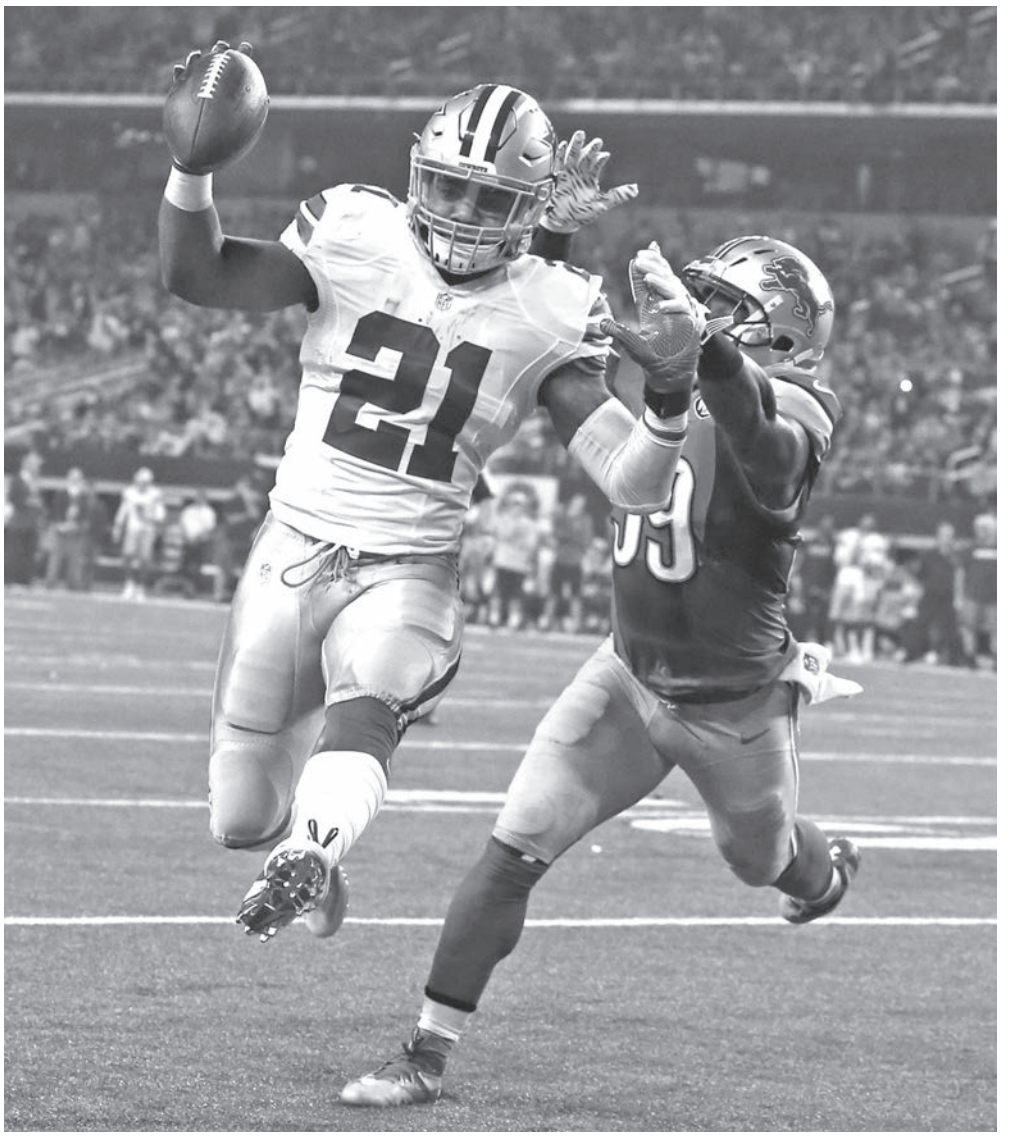
Elliott, the NFL rushing leader, had a 55-yard touchdown run in the first half and finished with 80 yards on 12 carries. He has 15 touchdowns rushing, two behind league-leading LeGarrette Blount of New England.

The first-year sensation known as "Zeke," who is 177 yards shy of Eric Dickerson's 33-year-old rookie rushing record of 1,808 yards, was almost upstaged by Detroit's "double-Z" - Zach Zenner.

The little-known undrafted back in his second year out of South Dakota State, filling in with Theo Riddick sidelined for a third straight game with a wrist injury, had a career-high 64 yards and two touchdowns at halftime. But Zenner faded in the second half, finishing with 67 yards.

"Found some creases, made some nice runs," Stafford said. "We've got to have more of it. We've got to find a way in the second half to get a couple more yards here or there on the ground."

Prescott tied Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger (2004) for the most wins by a rookie quarterback in the Super Bowl era with 13. He was 15 of 20 for 212 yards with three touchdowns, including Bryant's juggling 25-yard grab in the end zone when he fought off pass interference by Johnson Bademosi.



AP

Dallas Cowboys' Ezekiel Elliott (21) leaps into the end zone after getting past Detroit Lions' Tahir Whitehead, rear, for a touchdown in the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, Dec. 26, 2016, in Arlington, Texas.

MILESTONES

Bryant broke a tie for second with Hall of Famer Michael Irvin on Dallas' career TD receptions list with his 66th in the first half. The club record of 71 belongs to another Hall of Famer, Bob Hayes. ... Elliott is up to third on the rookie season rushing list, behind Dickerson and New Orleans' George Rogers (1,674 in 1981). He passed teammate Alfred Morris, who held third at 1,613 yards with Washington in 2012.

HIGHLAND PARK REUNION

Los Angeles Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw, who graduated from Highland Park High School in Dallas with Stafford in 2006, attended the game. Nine days earlier, Highland Park celebrated on the same field after its first state title since Stafford led the way in 2005.

GREGORY'S RETURN

Dallas defensive end Randy Gregory made his season debut after serving a 14-game suspension for violating the NFL's substance-abuse policy. The second-year player almost sacked Stafford in the fourth quarter and had two tackles.

INJURIES

Dallas' already-depleted defensive line sustained two more injuries in the first half, to Terrell McClain (ankle) and Ryan Davis (knee). Starting end Tyrone Crawford missed his first game of the season with shoulder and hamstring injuries. ... Dallas cornerback Anthony Brown left in the first half with a possible concussion. ... Detroit defensive tackle Stefan Charles didn't return after a knee injury in the second half.

Missed calls aplenty, and the NFL is looking for fixes

By EDDIE PELLS
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Not so much because more flags have been thrown in 2016—through Week 15 teams were averaging 8.09 flags a game this season compared to 8.10 in 2015—or because a larger-than-normal number of games have been decided by questionable calls.

More because the questioning of the competence of the officials began, literally, on opening day with a flurry of unflagged hits to the head of the reigning MVP, Cam Newton, and continued, in some form, virtually every week, without a stop.

Patterns? There weren't any, in particular.

Phantom pass interference calls have been as common as unflagged hits to the head, the likes of which sent Newton to the commissioner's office to discuss. There were petty calls for hugging refs (Earl Thomas) and throwing towels (Travis Kelce got ejected), all underscored by a flurry of flags for celebrations that grew more subversive the harder the NFL tried to curb them.

Replay worked—sometimes. But it didn't change anything at the end of the Cowboys-Vikings game. Cedric Thornton wasn't flagged even though he clearly hit Minnesota quarterback Sam Bradford in the head as Bradford threw for a potential tying 2-point play.

Also not reviewed: The non-call for Richard Sherman's takedown of Julio Jones at the end of the Seahawks-Falcons game; or a particularly poor spotting of the ball in an especially poorly called game between the Texans and Raiders.

"The scrutiny and the attention are at an all-time high on anything related to NFL, and that is a very positive thing," said Dean Blandino, the NFL's senior vice president of officiating. "And sometimes it can be negative, and we understand that in officiating."

What to do about all this?

Nothing new here—there is no single answer, but merely a list of remedies the NFL has committed to and could consider in the offseason.

FULL-TIME REFEREES: The league is considering hiring 17 full-time officials and increasing the size of officiating crews from seven to eight. The part-time official has long been a staple of the league, and there's good reason for it. Why would an official quit his day job for one with very little job security? Only if the league and the unions representing the players and officials can figure out a way to guarantee full-time officials some job security will this work out. Even then, 17 full-time referees will only represent a bit more than 10 percent of the workforce.

"Over 60 percent of (questions from coaches) are not about calls made but those not made," Blandino said. "So we could cover more of the field of play, which of course is a positive."

PASS INTERFERENCE: It's an almost annual cry: The NFL should consider changing its long-held rule on penalizing pass interference at the spot of the foul in favor of the more lenient college rule, which calls for only a 15-yard penalty.

If Mike Pereira, the former VP of officiating for the NFL, could change one single thing in the NFL, this would be it.

"You can change the course of a game on one of those calls, and what if a referee's not sure?" said Pereira, now an analyst for Fox.

The con to this is that it would now pay for a badly beaten defensive back to dive and tackle a receiver who was breaking open for a sure touchdown.

Of course, the league could consider a major and minor version of pass interference, though that has the potential to raise as many questions as it answers.

TARGETING REPLAY: Week 14 was Exhibit A, but hardly the only example of an instance in which officials could have used help from the booth to determine whether to eject a player for targeting to the head.

Darren Sproles of the Eagles was moving forward to field a punt when Deshazor Everett of the Redskins launched himself into Sproles and hit him helmet to helmet, knocking Sproles out of the game.

In college, this play might've been sent to the booth to determine if the rule calling for an automatic ejection should be enforced. The NFL does none of that, and Pereira explained that the call wasn't as automatic as many outraged posters on social media made it sound.

"Sproles didn't call for a fair catch, and you've got a guy running toward him, trying to time the hit with the ball behind him and he can't see it," he said. That doesn't always make it a play worthy of an ejection, Pereira explained, but rather a timing play that went awry.

SPOTTING THE BALL: The Nov. 21 game between the Raiders and Texans may have been the worst-called game of the season.

Among the misses: a pair of questionable spots with the Texans trying to gain short yardage to keep a potentially go-ahead drive going. Replays indicated the officials may have missed the spots both times. (That Texans coach Bill O'Brien didn't challenge the first spot is another issue).

The league is looking into technology already used in soccer: inserting a chip into the football that would help officials locate the ball and make more accurate spots.

"It's not as simple as to simply have a chip in the football," Blandino said. "Players get in the way, it doesn't tell us if the knee is down, and there are other factors that play into it that you don't have in, say, tennis or soccer."

Foye's 3 gives Nets 120-118 victory over Hornets

NEW YORK (AP)—Randy Foye might not even have been in the game if not for Jeremy Lin's injury.

The Brooklyn Nets were lucky he was.

Foye made a 3-pointer to beat the buzzer and give the Nets a 120-118 victory over the Charlotte Hornets on Monday night.

The Nets overcame the loss of Lin and a 14-point deficit in the third quarter to stop a five-game losing streak. Foye played a little with Lin in the first half, then was on the floor the entire fourth quarter after the point guard exited.

"We were already playing together in the second quarter, but when he went out, the next man had to step up," Foye said.

Bojan Bogdanovic led Brooklyn with 26 points, Sean Kilpatrick had 23 and Brook Lopez scored 10 of his 21 in the fourth.

Nicolas Batum had 24 points and Jeremy Lamb added 17 for Charlotte, but the Hornets had their three-game winning streak snapped.

"We kind of relaxed for a little while," center Cody Zeller said. "We can't play in spurts like we did tonight, like we have early on in the season."

Lin strained his left hamstring in the third, the same injury that forced him to miss 17 games earlier this season.

Lopez scored 10 straight Brooklyn points and then the Nets went outside, with Kilpatrick making a 3-pointer with 1:36 left and Bogdanovic adding another 30 seconds later to make it 117-113.

But Batum nailed a 3, and after Bogdanovic missed, Kemba Walker drove to the basket. His shot was blocked, but Zeller followed it up to put Charlotte ahead 118-117.

The Nets called timeout and inbounded from the sideline. Foye caught the pass on a play he said was supposed to be for Lopez—and hit the second game-winner of his career.

Lin landed awkwardly and limped to the line after he was fouled on a drive to the basket early in the third quarter. He made the free throws to start a 15-0 run that erased a 14-point deficit.

But he didn't run back down court after missing a reverse layup with about eight minutes left in the period, instead walking toward the bench to say he needed to come out. Bogdanovic's three-point play on the Nets' next possession culminated the run and gave them a 69-68 lead, but Charlotte quickly went back ahead and stayed there until Lopez converted his second straight three-point play to tie it at 98 with 7:40 remaining.

Pistons 106, Cavaliers 90

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Tobias Harris scored 21 points to help Detroit snap a five-game losing streak by beating Cleveland 106-90 in the NBA on Monday night while LeBron James sat out.

James missed his third game of the season, and Cleveland has lost all three. The Cavaliers had their five-game winning streak snapped in a match they never led.

Cleveland was playing its fifth game in seven days and coming off a thrilling win Sunday over Golden State. So James sat, and the Pistons took advantage.

Detroit scored the first eight points, led 50-44 at halftime and took control near the end of the third quarter. Harris and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope made 3-pointers early in the fourth, and the Pistons led 82-65.

Kevin Love had 17 points and 14 rebounds for Cleveland.

Pelicans 111, Mavericks 104

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis had 28 points and 16 rebounds as New Orleans beat Dallas.

Langston Galloway made all five of his 3-point shots and finished with 17 points for the Pelicans, who've won three of four as they try to climb back into the race for the final Western Conference playoff spot.

Davis made four free throws and a 19-foot jumper in the final 2:12 and got his second block on Harrison Barnes' layup attempt with 22 seconds remaining.

Deron Williams scored 24 points for Dallas, while Wesley Matthews scored 17 and Seth Curry 16. Dirk Nowitzki, who's been nursing a sore right Achilles tendon, scored 10 points in 17 minutes but did not play in the second half.

Rockets 131, Suns 115

In Houston, James Harden had 32 points and 12 assists in three quarters and Houston never trailed in a win over Phoenix.

It was the 12th 30-point game this season for Harden, who made 12 of 15 free throws.

Houston led by at least 20 points for most of the night and was up by 27 entering the fourth quarter. Harden didn't play after that, and coach Mike D'Antoni had the rest of his starters on the bench by the middle of the fourth quarter.

Eric Bledsoe led the Suns with 24 points, and Brandon Knight added 21 off the bench.

Bulls 90, Pacers 85

In Chicago, Dwyane Wade scored 21 points and Nikola Mirotic added a season-high 20 as Chicago overcame a poor shooting performance to beat Indiana and snap a three-game skid.

Jimmy Butler had 16 points despite shooting only 3 of 12 from the field. Chicago, which had dropped nine of 12, was 32 for 83 (38.6 percent) from the field.

Aaron Brooks had a season-high 19 points to lead the Pacers, who have lost three straight.

Michael Carter-Williams returned to the Bulls' lineup after missing nearly two months with left knee and left wrist injuries. He finished with one point (0 for 5 from the field) in 18 minutes.

Wizards 107, Bucks 102

In Washington, Otto Porter scored 32 points and grabbed 13 rebounds while John Wall had 18 points and a season-high 16 assists to help Washington come from behind to beat Milwaukee.

Bradley Beal scored 22 points as Washington turned the game around with a 15-2 fourth-quarter run. Markieff Morris added 18 in the Wizards' sixth straight home win and seventh this season after trailing by double figures.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 22 points and 12 rebounds for the Bucks, who beat the Wizards by 27 points in Milwaukee on Friday.

Milwaukee's Tony Snell made a career-high six 3-pointers and set a season high with 20 points, but missed a baseline 3 late that could've tied it at 105.

Down 10 early in the fourth quarter, Washington roared back while holding Milwaukee to just one field goal over a stretch of 6:41.

Timberwolves 104, Hawks 90

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns had 22 points and 11 rebounds, and Zach LaVine hit six 3-pointers to lead Minnesota over Atlanta.

LaVine scored 21 points, Andrew Wiggins had 21 and was 4 for 6 on 3-pointers, and Towns was 8 for 8 from the field, including 3 for 3 from 3-point range. Minnesota hit a season-high 15 3s and led by as many as 29 points.

Dwight Howard had 20 points on 9-for-9 shooting and 12 rebounds for the Hawks in his return from a back injury. But Paul Millsap was just 2 for 13 from the field, and Atlanta's 19 turnovers led to 22 points by the Timberwolves.

Magic 112, Grizzlies 102

In Orlando, Florida, Aaron Gordon scored 30 points, and Serge Ibaka and Elfrid Payton had 16 apiece to help Orlando beat Memphis.

Seven players reached double figures for the Magic, who maintained a large lead most of the night despite playing without leading scorer Evan Fournier (bruised heel). Nikola Vucevic had 13 points and nine rebounds, and Bismack Biyombo added 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Mike Conley led Memphis with 17 points. Troy Daniels had 16 and Zach Randolph 13, but the Grizzlies were down early and never recovered.

Nuggets 106, Clippers 102

In Los Angeles, Nikola Jokic had 24 points and 10 rebounds, and Danilo Gallinari and Will Barton each scored 23 to lead the Denver Nuggets past the undermanned Los Angeles Clippers.

The Clippers played without their three leading scorers—Blake Griffin, Chris Paul and J.J. Redick—but came from 17 points down to start the second half and took a seven-point lead in the fourth quarter.

Denver responded with a 9-0 run of its own and used four clutch free throws by Gallinari down the stretch to hold on.

Jamal Crawford led the Clippers with 24 points, and Austin Rivers added 19.

The Nuggets outrebounded the Clippers 51-38.

The Clippers led by one with 7:20 left in the first half when Barton sparked a 16-2 Denver run. Barton hit all five of his shots in the second quarter and added five assists and four rebounds.

The Nuggets shot 82.4 percent (14 of 17) in the period to take a 63-46 lead into halftime. The Clippers got back in the game with a 10-0 run to start the second half.

Raptors 95, Trail Blazers 91

In Portland, Oregon, Kyle Lowry scored 27 points as the Toronto Raptors won their franchise-best seventh consecutive road game over the skidding Portland Trail Blazers.

Lowry, coming off a season-high 36 points last Friday at Utah, had 20 in the second half as the Raptors (22-8) handed Portland its sixth consecutive loss.

Toronto's DeMar DeRozan nearly had his first triple-double of the season, with 20 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists. Patrick Patterson scored 15, and Jonas Valanciunas had 12 points and 12 rebounds.

C.J. McCollum scored 27 points to lead Portland (13-20). The Blazers have lost 10 of 11.

Portland guard Damian Lillard sat out with a sprained ankle. Lillard, averaging 27 points per game, was injured last Friday against San Antonio.

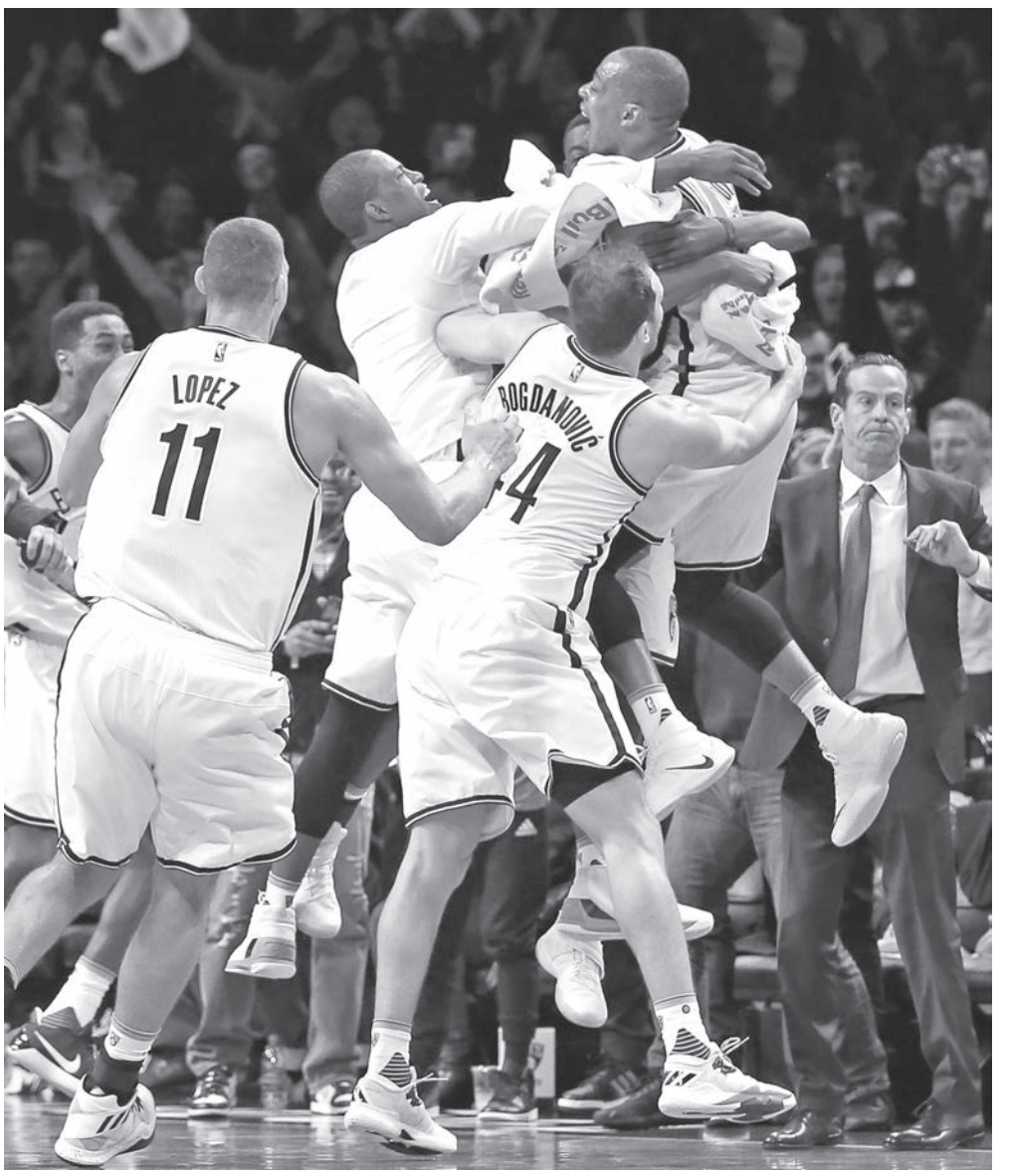
Kings 100, 76ers 100

In Sacramento, California, DeMarcus Cousins made a go-ahead 3-pointer with 20.9 seconds remaining and added a clutch free throw moments later, lifting the Sacramento Kings over the Philadelphia 76ers.

After Ersan Ilyasova drove around Rudy Gay for a layup that tied the score at 96-96, Cousins made his second 3 of the game to put Sacramento ahead. Garrett Temple, who had put the Kings up 96-94 with his own key 3-pointer with 58.7 seconds left, followed with two free throws.

Sergio Rodriguez's 3-pointer pulled Philadelphia within 101-100 before Cousins made the second of two free throws. Sacramento's 6-foot-11 center then sealed the win by blocking Joel Embiid's 3-pointer. Embiid got the ball back but shot an airball at the buzzer.

Cousins finished with 30 points, seven rebounds and five assists while helping the Kings extend their winning streak to a season-high four games.



AP

Brooklyn Nets', including center Brook Lopez (11) and Bojan Bogdanovic (44) celebrate with guard Randy Foye (2), leaping, right, after Foye scored the winning shot in the final two seconds of an NBA basketball game against the Charlotte Hornets, Monday, Dec. 26, 2016, in New York.

Cubs won it all just in time for many of its long-time fans

CHICAGO (AP)—At the end, not much was getting through to Helen Weithman. The memories she collected over 98 years were slipping away. When Kathleen Strobel talked to her, she could tell by the blank look on her mom's face that that she didn't understand a lot of what she was saying.

Then came the World Series.

"She really came alive when it started and they had the Cubs games on," Strobel said. "When we started talking about it she said, 'They haven't won since I was born.' It was probably the last thing we shared with her because she died on November 29th."

Strobel hasn't wondered if the hope of finally witnessing her Cubbies win it all added a little time to her mom's life. Studies have long suggested no one can will themselves to stay alive just a little bit longer to reach a milestone event like a birthday, holiday, wedding or World Series.

Try telling that to the families of some Chicago Cubs fans who are convinced their loved ones hung on to see the team win its first Series in 108 years.

Robert Matijevich doesn't know much about all the studies. He just knows what he saw at the North Chicago home where he lived with his father.

"He was really going downhill but in the World Series he was eating better, sleeping more," Matijevich said of his 88-year-old father, John. "When the Cubs won, he said, 'They did it in my lifetime.'"

He went to bed and died that night. Did the older Matijevich stick around long enough to see the Cubs win the World Series?

"I really think that was the reason, I really do," said his son.

In 2004, as Boston was basking in an at-long-last World Series championship, statisticians at Ohio State University threw water on all those stories about dying fans who kept themselves alive long enough to witness the first Red Sox title in 86 years. Their study concluded there was no evidence that cancer patients willed themselves to live just a bit longer.

"You'd hear it all the time, that a nurse said so and so hung on until after Christmas, and it's a nice story," said the study's co-author, Dr. Donn Young, a now-retired researcher at the university's Comprehensive Cancer Center. What is more likely, he said, is explained in another study that found people remember positive events more than they do negative ones - meaning that nurses and other caregivers are more likely to recall those patients who made it through the holidays than those who didn't.

Still, Young acknowledged that some of the ailing might eat better, more faithfully take their medicine and get plenty of rest in the hopes of reaching a milestone. And there is no underestimating the value of the smiles and the general bliss for Cubs fans the night of Nov. 2 when the World Series ended safely in Anthony Rizzo's glove during an epic Game 7 in Cleveland. There is no forgetting that, at least for a little while, the distraction that the Cubs provided to those who had just hours or days to live.

AP

In this Nov. 4, 2016 photo provided by the Strobel Family, Cubs fan Helen Weithman, celebrates the Chicago Cubs World Series victory at her home in Glen Ellyn, Ill.

FIESTA

From Page 28

scoring 10 points. Cass Camacho debuted in the annual competition and matched Castillo's output, while Chanel Espinosa added 8 and Jaime Pangelinan and Mary Kay Alferos chipped in 6 apiece for CTSI. Three more CTSI players logged at least two field goals apiece, while the four remaining scorers had 2 points each.

As for Shirley's side, only three players graced the team's box scores with Rose Jones registering 11 and Rachel Rudela and Camille Muna contributing 4 and 2, respectively.

Jones made all, but two of Shirley's total points in the first half, while Castillo, Camacho, and Alferos combined for 22 points to lift CTSI to a 32-12 halftime edge.

CTSI went on to pad it lead in the second half as its other players stepped up, while Shirley's paid the price for having a short-handed lineup as they nailed only two field goals in the final 20 minutes of play.

In the first game, Fiesta's key players delivered with Irish Pagarao firing 16 points and Chevy Kate Alipio adding 7 in their 4-point victory over IT&E.

Pagarao dropped 11 of her total production in the second half, including 9 straight markers in that period to keep Fiesta in the lead.

IT&E, which has players who suited up for the Mt. Carmel School team that won the high school caging this month, played without gunner Jan Travilla, leaving Karlene Reyes to take the cudgels for the squad. Reyes had a team-high 10 points.

Meanwhile, two more teams will debut in the holiday caging today as CTSI takes on Jingle Ballers in the first women's match at 5pm and Shirley's meets Armatech in the 6pm tiff. The two other squads entered in the women's division—Sun Palace and QQ Rent A Car—will have their first game on Monday against Armatech and Jingle Ballers, respectively.

670 Thunders prevail in game under protest

In the boys U16 division, the 670 Thunders won the game it placed under protest as the Ol'Aces 2 were found to have fielded ineligible players in their game last Monday.

The Ol'Aces 2 routed the Thunders, 85-15, during the opening day of the league, but the victory was nullified as two of the former's players were over the age limit (should not turn 17 on the duration of the tournament). The Thunders also protested the two other Ol'Aces 2 players who wore blue shorts (only black shorts are allowed).

First Game

Fiesta 37 — Pagarao 16, Alipio 7, Ito 6, Tuazon 2, Phan 2, Lee 2, Joyce 2.

IT&E 33 — Reyes 10, J. Villagomez 5, Flores 4, Manibusan 4, Borja 3, Siram 2, G. Villagomez 2.

Second Game

CTSI 58 — Camacho 10, Castillo 10, Espinosa 8, Pangelinan 6, Alferos 6, Kautz 4, Wally 4, M. Alegre 2, J. Alegre 2, Fabiana 2, Peredo 2.

Shirley's 17 — Jones 11, Tudela 4, Muna 2.

Scoring by halves: 32-12, 58-17.

FAKE

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Jaydee Jose and Brian Lubao registered one goal apiece for the losing squad.

Kanoa Mighty Orange then got its second win as it defeated Gene Weaver's Team yesterday, 6-3. This time, it was Merrick Toves who led the squad's second win after firing three goals. Anastacio had another brace, while Merrick's younger brother Markus chipped in one.

Sean Gil gave Gene Weaver's Team's two goals, while Leo Naraja recorded one.

Kanoa Mighty Orange played back-to-back games yesterday, but bowed to Fake Madrid II in the earlier match, 10-3, giving the latter the early lead in the four-team field.

Again, Basnet was on target, knocking in five goals, while Goto backed him up, logging four. Jeremiah Diaz also lit up the board once for Fake Madrid II, while Kanoa Mighty Orange drew two goals from Markus and one from Joyce.

The four teams competing in the co-ed U12 division will play in a double-round robin preliminary and all squad will advance to the single-elimination playoffs, which will have the No. 1 and 4 teams colliding for the first finals berth and the No. 2 and 3 battling for the remaining finals ticket.

In other results, in the last co-ed U16 match, Newcastle FC whipped Kanoa Ali'i, 16-0.

Mareko Tekopua hammered Kanoa Ali'i with his eight goals, while Guinevere Borja recorded four, and Diana Maniacop and Joshua Abrahan posted two apiece.

Seven teams are playing in the co-ed U16 division with Astig, Malo Fatu, Vetde, Evan FC, and Elite FC also on the list. The age group has a round-robin format in the elimination and only the Top 4 teams will advance to the playoff round, which will take place this Friday.

Three co-ed U16 division games were played yesterday and results of these tiffs, along with the morning matches today, will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Thursday edition.

GAMES

From Page 28

year's competition are volleyball (indoor and beach), soccer, tennis, weightlifting, archery, cricket, boxing, judo, karate, netball, and table tennis.

All the 22-member nations of the Pacific Games Council were given until early this month to submit their numerical entries, but at press time the council has yet to announce how many will be participating in the Games.

Meanwhile, Pacific Games Council chief executive officer Andrew Minogue was in Vanuatu last Dec. 8 and 9 to address issues affecting the preparation for the competition, especially funding for the event. The council CEO met with key government officials of Vanuatu, Vanuatu Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee, and VAN2017 Organizing Committee and after a series of discussions, an instrument was rectified to allow the immediate resumption of the flow of funds from the Vanuatu government to the organizing committee.

Minogue, in a press release sent to *Saipan Tribune*, reminded the host nation that withholding the funds to VAN2017 is a violation of the Games Host Agreement and could lead to the non-staging of the Games in Vanuatu. He added that the council will closely monitor the resumption of the release of funds for the event.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	22	8	.733	—
Boston	18	13	.581	4½
New York	16	14	.533	6
Brooklyn	8	22	.267	14
Philadelphia	7	23	.233	15

Southeast Division

Charlotte	17	14	.548	—
Atlanta	15	16	.484	2
Washington	14	16	.467	2½
Orlando	15	18	.455	3
Miami	10	21	.323	7

Central Division

Cleveland	23	7	.767	—
Chicago	15	16	.484	8½
Milwaukee	14	15	.483	8½
Indiana	15	17	.469	9
Detroit	15	18	.455	9½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	25	6	.806	—
Houston	23	9	.719	2½
Memphis	20	13	.606	6
New Orleans	12	21	.364	14
Dallas	9	22	.290	16

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	19	12	.613	—
Utah	18	13	.581	1
Denver	13	18	.419	6
Portland	13	20	.394	7
Minnesota	10	21	.323	9

Pacific Division

Golden State	27	5	.844	—
L.A. Clippers	22	11	.667	5½
Sacramento	14	17	.452	12½
L.A. Lakers	12	22	.353	16
Phoenix	9	22	.290	17½

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	13	2	0	.867	406	236
x-Miami	10	5	0	.667	349	345
Buffalo	7	8	0	.467	389	348
N.Y. Jets	4	11	0	.267	245	399

South

y-Houston	9	6	0	.600	262	304
Tennessee	8	7	0	.533	357	361
Indianapolis	7	8	0	.467	387	372
Jacksonville	3	12	0	.200	298	376

North

y-Pittsburgh	10	5	0	.667	372	303
Baltimore	8	7	0	.533	333	294
Cincinnati	5	9	1	.367	298	305
Cleveland	1	14	0	.067	240	425

West

x-Oakland	12	3	0	.800	410	361
x-Kansas City	11	4	0	.733	352	284
Denver	8	7	0	.533	309	291
San Diego	5	10	0	.333	383	386

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

y-Dallas	13	2	0	.867	408	279
x-N.Y. Giants	10	5	0	.667	291	274
Washington	8	6	1	.567	386	364
Philadelphia	6	9	0	.400	340	318

South

y-Atlanta	10	5	0	.667	502	374
Tampa Bay	8	7	0	.533	337	353
New Orleans	7	8	0	.467	437	416
Carolina	6	9	0	.400	353	385

North

Green Bay	9	6	0	.600	401	364
Detroit	9	6	0	.600	322	327
Minnesota	7	8	0	.467	289	297
Chicago	3	12	0	.200	269	361

West

y-Seattle	9	5	1	.633	329	269
Arizona	6	8	1	.433	374	356
Los Angeles	4	11	0	.267	218	350
San Francisco	2	13	0	.133	286	455

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

2016 NMIFA U11 Interscholastic Football League

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel School players, manager Cathy Attao-Toves, standing left, and coach John Diego Masga, standing right, pose with their perpetual trophy after beating Whispering Palms/Brilliant Star in the boys division finals of the 2016 NMIFA U11 Interscholastic Football League held early this month at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

William S. Reyes Elementary School players and their coaches pose with their third place trophy in the boys division.

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School players and their coaches receive the third place award in the girls division.

Whispering Palms School and Brilliant Star School players are joined by their coach Richard Sikkel in posing with their runner-up trophy.

Whispering Palms School's Dylan Mister, left, receives the Golden Boot trophy from volunteer Angie Ito.

Whispering Palms School and Brilliant Star School players and their coach are all smiles after getting their runner-up award.

One of the competition volunteers Angie Ito, left, hands the Golden Glove award to William S. Reyes Elementary School's Christine Amaro.

Mt. Carmel School's Leo Naraja, left, and coach John Diego Masga show their championship trophy.

Lions' playoff hopes on hold after 42-21 loss to Cowboys

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Foye's 3 gives Nets 120-118 victory over Hornets

PAGE 25

Fake Madrid II, Kanoa Mighty Orange triumph

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Fake Madrid II and Kanoa Mighty Orange gained two victories apiece in the co-ed U12 division of the 2016 Saipan Soccer School Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament after the first two days of competition at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kanoa Ali'i's Jaydee Jose, right, tries to steal the ball from a Kanoa Mighty Orange player during the first half of their co-ed U12 division game in the 2016 SSS Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament last Monday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Fake Madrid II opened the hostilities in its age group last Monday and shut down Gene Weaver's Team, 7-0, while Kanoa Mighty Orange topped Kanoa Ali'i in the second game, 6-2.

Rohan Basnet had a hat trick in Fake Madrid II's demolition of Gene Weaver's Team, while Kohtaro Goto and Rintaro Miyawaki contributed two goals apiece.

Markus Toves, Paulynn Joyce, and John Mark Anastacio also had two goals each in their first game in the division to hand Kanoa Mighty Orange the victory against Kanoa Ali'i.

See FAKE on Page 26

Fiesta Resort, CTSI win debuts

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Fiesta Resort & Spa's Krizel Tuazon, center, loses possession as she goes up against IT&E defenders Karleen Reyes, right, and Gillian Villagomez during the first half of the women's division game in the TanHoldings holiday caging last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and CTSI delivered in their opening games in the women's division of the 2016 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Fiesta Resort played in the first women's division tiff and outclassed IT&E, 37-33, while CTSI dominated Shirley's Coffee Shop in the second match, 58-17.

CTSI had too many offensive options, making it easy for the team to down Shirley's, which listed only eight players for its first game. CTSI had a full 12-player roster and 11 of them scored in the squad's 41-point win over the depleted Shirley's crew.

Former CNMI National Women's Team player Jeraldine Castillo led CTSI's balance offense after

See FIESTA on Page 26

No CNMI golfers in 2017 Mini Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

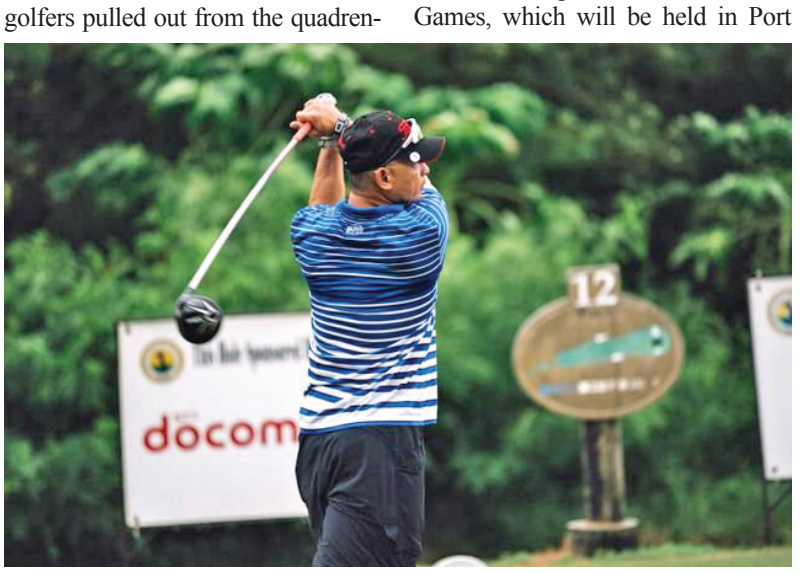
Team CNMI's small delegation to the 2017 Pacific Mini Games became smaller after the Commonwealth's golfers pulled out from the quadrennial event.

Refaluwasch Golf Association's Tony Rogolifoi announced at the Northern Marianas Sports Association meeting this month that they will not be fielding a team for the Mini Games, which will be held in Port Vila, Vanuatu from Dec. 2 to 14 next year, due to the unavailability of the players.

With the golfers out, the CNMI will only compete in athletics and rugby 7s. Northern Marianas Athletics before the November deadline for submission of numerical entries said it will bring a four-person squad, plus a coach to Vanuatu, while rugby 7s is allowed to have a maximum of 12 players plus coaches/officials.

Besides athletics, rugby 7's, and golf, other sports lined up in next

See GAMES on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A golfer watches his tee shot during a local tournament this year. The CNMI will not be competing in the golf event in the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu.